

47 jailed for opposing shantytown demolition

KHARTOUM (R) — A court has sentenced 47 people to six months in prison and fined them 3,000 pounds (\$567) each for interfering with the demolition of shanty areas in north Khartoum, a newspaper reported on Tuesday. If they did not pay the fine, they would have to serve an additional five months in jail, the daily Al Sudan Al Hadid reported. It said the public order court sentenced the 47 for resisting police efforts at the start of an operation that began last Saturday to remove all shanty areas in the capital. About two million Sudanese who have fled the south, where rebels have waged a civil war since 1988, live mainly in some 40 shantytowns in Khartoum. The government wants all of these refugees to either return home or go to productive areas where they can depend on themselves and not on relief aid.

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Peace marchers head for Amman

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — An international group advocating non-violence and calling for Middle East peace set out on Tuesday to march from Jerusalem through the occupied West Bank to Amman. Dozens of members of the Gulf Peace Team planned to walk the 70-kilometre in six days to commemorate the 1967 war in which Israel occupied the West Bank 24 years ago this week, a spokesman said. The peace marchers had previously tried to prevent the Gulf war between a U.S.-led coalition and Iraq by setting up a peace camp between the opposing armies.

'Phony milk for Sudan'

NEW YORK (AP) — The owner of a shipping company pleaded guilty to defrauding an aid programme out of nearly \$1 million by shipping animal feed instead of powdered milk to famine-stricken Sudan, prosecutors said Monday. Maatyn C. Merritt, owner of AMG Services Inc., pleaded guilty late Friday in Manhattan's federal court to conspiracy to defraud the U.S. government. The charge involved a contract that his company had with the U.S. Agency for International Development, which administers foreign aid, to supply hundreds of tonnes of low-fat milk powder to starving Sudanese. During the plea, Merritt said the shipment he arranged in January 1989 was actually an inferior milk product for animals, not fit for human consumption as required by aid regulations.

Turkey arrests Swiss women

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey has arrested a Swiss woman it alleges has links with a banned Turkish leftist group, a court official said on Tuesday. The prosecution told Istanbul state security court that Barbara Anna Kistler was an alleged member of the outlawed Turkish Workers and Peasants Liberation Army (TIKKO) and was involved in setting up armed gangs. Kistler was not charged and was remanded in custody. The mass-circulation daily Hurriyet quoted Kistler, who could face up to five years in jail if charged and convicted, as telling the court she came to Turkey in January 1991 and had no links with the group.

Saudi foreign minister in Qatar

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal arrived in Doha on Tuesday on a previously unannounced visit. The Gulf news agency said Prince Saud was greeted by his Qatari counterpart Mubarak Ali Al Khater but gave no further details. The two ministers attended a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Saudi Arabia on Sunday and Monday.

'Floods devastate Afghanistan'

ISLAMABAD (R) — Rainstorms and floods have caused some 5,000 casualties in the northern Afghan province of Jozjan, an Afghan rebel news service said on Tuesday. Twenty-one villages were "completely destroyed" by the calamity that hit the area last Friday night, the Pakistan-based rebel government's official Mida news service said. "The number of casualties is approaching 5,000," Mida reported, without saying how many were killed and how many injured.

Bush picks Strauss envoy to Soviet Union

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush on Tuesday nominated former Democratic party chairman Robert Strauss as the new ambassador to the Soviet Union for what he called a critical period in U.S.-Soviet relations. "Bob Strauss was taken on difficult and delicate assignments in the past for presidents of both parties. I know he's the right man to take on the job at this moment..." Bush said in a hastily arranged appearance in the White House Rose Garden.

13 killed, 38 injured

Israeli warplanes attack Palestinian bases in Lebanon

MAJDALYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Israeli warplanes pounded Palestinian bases in south Lebanon on Tuesday, killing 13 people including a dozen children.

The air strikes, on the ninth anniversary of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, began less than 24 hours after a raid flattened a PLO intelligence office east of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

The planes made 18 passes over two hours on training bases, ammunition depots, artillery and anti-aircraft guns in and near three villages five kilometres east of Sidon, witnesses said.

"The raid started suddenly and explosions smashed all the windows," said a nun at a church school in Majdalyoun where some 1,300 terrified children hid in basement bomb shelters.

She said 10 children — aged between five and seven — were hit by glass fragments. Two more children were wounded at other schools.

The raid hammered bases of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Palestinian Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Lebanese Sunni Muslim Popular Liberation Army (PLA) militia, security

sources said.

They said the dead consisted of six FRC, five DFLP and two PFLP fighters.

At least 14 of the 38 wounded were civilians. Most of the other injured were Palestinian fighters, the sources said.

Ambulances were unable to enter the area during the raids in case they were hit. Buses later evacuated children — many in tears — from the schools while worried parents searched for them.

In Tel Aviv an army spokesman said the planes destroyed DFLP guerrilla staging areas used for concentrating armoured vehicles, artillery and ammunition.

Political sources said the raids were intended to reinforce Israel's warning that it would not permit a Lebanese-Syrian cooperation treaty which took effect on Monday to threaten the Jewish state.

"These air raids are a prelude to a large military attack..." said Zeid Wehbeh, the personal representative in Sidon of Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Wehbeh reported what he said was an Israeli military buildup in the south and unusual air and naval movements in the area.

Bombs and rockets hit an FRC training camp near Majdalyoun, leaving craters up to two metres

deep and 10 metres wide. The planes hunted down anti-aircraft guns on trucks as guerrillas drove them under cover, witnesses said.

"The planes are striking the area every few minutes... it seems they are not going to stop," said Sidon resident Elham Mustapha. "We felt our house shake with every explosion."

Palestinian fighters put up a curtain of anti-aircraft fire but Israel said all its aircraft returned safely.

Palestinian sources said during the attack that Israeli and an allied Lebanese militia were reinforcing positions near the village of Kfar Falous, about 10 kilometres east of Sidon.

Tuesday's raids were Israel's 12th air strike into Lebanon this year and the most extensive air assault in several months.

Israeli planes struck on Monday as the Syrian and Lebanese foreign ministers exchanged documents in Beirut putting the wide-ranging cooperation treaty between the two neighbours into effect.

Three people, including two guerrillas, were killed and seven wounded in that attack which was also just east of Sidon.

Israel has condemned the pact as virtual Syrian annexation of Lebanon. Damascus says that the treaty recognises Lebanese independence but strengthens close

ties between the neighbours.

"These developments are not in Israel's interest," said a Palestinian political source. "The raids emphasise Israel's position that it will not withdraw from the south and we expect more trouble."

The independent Beirut newspaper An Nahar said on Tuesday Syria and the PLO had reached an agreement in principle on the status of Palestinian fighters in Lebanon and Middle East peace negotiations.

It said PLO guerrillas in Lebanon would keep their weapons until Syria's President Hafez Al Assad received a commitment from Washington that Israel would withdraw from south Lebanon.

Israel, which withdrew most of its troops in 1985, holds a security zone in south Lebanon to stop guerrilla raids over its northern border and has vowed to stay until its security is guaranteed.

Lebanese Prime Minister Omar Karami urged the United Nations, the United States and other international powers to stop supplying Israel with weapons because "our children are dying."

He said Israel wanted to block implementation of a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.



ROYAL VISIT: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday attended a military exercise carried out by one of the formations of the Third Royal Armoured Division. Prince Hassan was received by the Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, a number of his assistants and the general inspector of the armed forces. Prince Hassan was briefed on stages of the exercise.

U.S. protests mistreatment of diplomat; Israeli minister rejects U.N., EC role

Shamir set to reject Bush's plea for talks

Reuter and the Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is expected to reject President George Bush's direct appeal for Israeli flexibility, and will not budge on the outstanding issues blocking the convening of a Middle East peace conference.

Sources in the prime minister's office told The Jerusalem Post last night that "These issues are critical for us. We cannot give in." They added that the reply is already being drafted.

In his letter, Bush called on Israel to be flexible on the unresolved procedural issues standing in the way of a conference. Should the so-called procedural issues be overcome, Bush assures Shamir that the parley will indeed lead to direct talks.

Officials in the prime minister's office describe the two-and-a-half page letter as "friendly" and befit of any threats should Israel refuse to yield any ground on the "modalities."

These officials confirmed that Bush asked Shamir to agree to the participation of a U.N. representative in the role of observer and to agree that the conference can reconvene periodically to receive updates on negotiations but not have any authority over the negotiations.

According to Israeli officials in Washington, Bush's letter asking for Israeli concessions on both the two points stem from Syria's insistence on U.N. participation and reconvening of the proposed conference.

The letter stressed, the officials said, the U.S. position that the conference would only be a vehicle

for breaking taboos that will lead to direct dialogue between Israel and her neighbours.

Bush wrote letters to all the major leaders in the region in a bid to overcome existing roadblocks on the way to a peace parley. Until now, Secretary of State James Baker has been handling all of the diplomacy, with White House officials not wanting Bush to be saddled with the possibility of failure.

The idea of dispatching letters to the region seems to be calculated to achieve optimal effect at minimal cost. U.S. officials are hoping that no Middle Eastern leader will want to turn down a direct appeal from the president, especially in the aftermath of the Gulf War. At the same time, the White House hoped to protect the president's personal prestige by communicating via epistles rather than risking a high-profile presidential visit to the area.

White House officials revealed Monday that, in addition to Israel and Syria, Bush had sent written appeals for movement towards a Middle East peace conference to King Hussein, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

These letters, along with the messages sent to Shamir, and Syrian President Hafez Assad-hand-delivered in Lisbon to Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara by Baker-represented an all-out effort to move forward with the stalled U.S. proposal.

The letters "all expressed the president's personal commitment to the peace process, urged them to follow up on the various opportunities that have come out of the Baker mission, and once

again stressed that we should not pass up this opportunity to keep the peace process alive and to get Israel talking to its neighbours." White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said at a news briefing. Fitzwater said that the letters did not contain any new proposals, but urged compromise by the various countries on the modalities of the conference.

In the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence committee Monday, Shamir denied that Bush in his letter had invited the prime minister to confer with him on the conference.

Shamir said, "in the letter, the president is attempting to explain the need and the rationale of the positions of the U.S., so he can persuade the participants in the conference to accept the American view."

The prime minister insisted, "the peace process is not stuck." He also counseled, "I don't think we have patience. We want everything to run ahead. I understand this, but there are no short cuts. Things are complicated."

Meanwhile an Israeli cabinet minister rejected on Tuesday even a token Middle East peace role for the United Nations in an apparent setback to Washington's efforts to keep its peace initiative alive.

"We can't give any sort of tool to the United Nations, to Europe, which have taken so hostile a position towards Israel in this process," Transport Minister Moshe Katzav, who is regarded as close to Shamir, told army radio.

Israeli leftist members of parliament meanwhile accused the Likud party-led government of planning to quadruple Jewish settlement in the occupied Gaza Strip. Washington, Israel's closest ally, views such settlements as an obstacle to peace.

Meanwhile the United States lodged a formal protest with Israel Tuesday over what it said was the failure of Israeli soldiers to intervene when a Jewish West Bank settler threatened a U.S. diplomat with a pistol last week.

"The (U.S.) embassy has protested formally to the government of Israel and asked for an investigation," spokesman Don Cofman of the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv told Reuters.

The U.S. consulate in Jerusalem said the diplomat was carrying out official duties in the occupied West Bank on Thursday when he was "accosted by an Israeli settler near Hebron brandishing a pistol."

Two Israeli soldiers witnessed the incident but did not intervene, the consulate said.

"It is unacceptable that Israeli soldiers failed to intervene when an Israeli settler physically threatened an American diplomat," a statement from the consulate said.

The army had no immediate comment but Israel's foreign ministry confirmed the U.S. embassy had been in contact.

Kurd rebels kill six Turkish soldiers

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Kurdish rebels have killed six Turkish soldiers in an ambush near a southeastern Turkish town, officials said on Tuesday.

A group of guerrillas from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) opened fire on a military patrol on Monday near Sirnak town, 1,200 kilometres southeast of Ankara, they added.

In a separate clash, Turkish troops shot dead four rebels near the southeastern provincial city of Diyarbakir. They took a further five rebels prisoner.

The semi-official Anatolian news agency said a state security court in the eastern Turkish city of Malatya sentenced a Syrian member of the PKK to death.

The court said Mohammad Kemal had killed a Turkish soldier last June in a clash with security forces near Malatya. Kemal denied the charges, the agency said.

Turkey has declared a state of emergency in 10 southeastern provinces.

Iraq, Australia sign 1 million tonnes wheat deal

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said on Tuesday that a one million tonnes Australian wheat deal, previously held up by financing difficulties, had been finalised.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said that Australia will supply the wheat over the next six months.

It said methods of payment and shipment dates were agreed in a document signed in Baghdad Tuesday by the chairman of the Australian Wheat Board (AWB), Clinton Condon.

It did not say how much Iraq would pay for the wheat or how but previous reports from Australia said the deal was worth about \$155 million.

Trade Minister Mehdi Saleh said on May 30 that the deal was among others for essential food imports that depended on the release of Iraqi assets frozen abroad after Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait last August.

Iraq is living off old stocks of grain and its own harvest which usually yields 30-40 per cent of its grain needs.

U.N. member governments have been allowed since early May to unfreeze Iraqi funds to

finance purchases of food, medicine and other goods for humanitarian purposes, but few have done so.

In New Delhi, India said Tuesday it has offered food and medicine on commercial credit terms to Iraq, which has been seeking in vain to arrange food deals with Western countries since the Gulf war.

"We have offered to provide foodstuffs and medicines, which are items allowed under the United Nations sanctions regulations (against Iraq), on normal commercial credit terms," an external affairs ministry spokesman said.

The Indian spokesman said no firm deal had been concluded yet, but New Delhi would give its usual credit support to exporters for food supplies to Iraq.

He was commenting on a statement issued on Monday in Baghdad by K.G. Dhananjayan, president of the Federation of Indian Farmers Association, saying Indian farmers would supply Iraq with food on credit terms.

The statement said: "India will fill the vacuum created by the war and by the... refusal of all West-

ern nations to supply essential commodities."

Dhananjayan said India could provide wheat, rice, sugar and tea, all in short supply in Iraq, but did not say if he had signed firm contracts for food deliveries.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi parliament, after a two-day debate on high prices and food shortages, has recommended a series of anti-inflation measures including re-nationalising flour mills and bakeries in large towns.

Bakeries, privatised in 1989, have raised the price of bread more than 20 times since last August.

The bakers say that as private businessmen they have to buy their flour at scarcity prices on the free market. The price of flour distributed through the government ration system has not changed since last August.

Re-nationalisation, which would take effect if decreed by the ruling Revolution Command Council, could bring down bread prices only if the government guaranteed supplies of flour to the new state-owned bakeries.

Conservative upsurge grips Saudi Arabia

By Martin Marris
The Associated Press

NICOSIA — Thousands of followers of a firebrand Muslim cleric converged on the governor's palace in northwest Saudi Arabia when the official barred the preacher from delivering his sermon, diplomats said Monday.

It was the latest sign of a conservative backlash in Saudi Arabia in the wake of the Gulf war, when the presence of hundreds of thousands of foreigners led liberals to hope for social change in Saudi Arabia's traditionally closed society.

It came after Muslim conservatives handed King Fahd a petition calling for stricter enforcement of religious strictures, including a crackdown on corruption and a call that a planned consultative council be guided by religious concerns rather than tilt towards reformists.

Diplomats said the incident

took place a month ago in the desert town of Buraydah, about 340 kilometres northwest of Riyadh, the capital, but details have only recently emerged.

The 5,000 devotees of the preacher, Sheikh Al Awdah, marched on the palace when he did not appear at the mosque in Buraydah, a birthplace of Saudi religious conservatism, because they thought he had been jailed, the diplomats reported.

"It was a bit like a Saudi version of a Mexican standoff," said one Western diplomat who described the scene in Buraydah.

The crowd dispersed peacefully when they found out Al Awdah had not been imprisoned, said the Riyadh-based diplomats, who spoke on condition they were not identified.

As a result of the incident, the governor of Qassim province, Prince Abdul Illah Bin Abdul Aziz, a half-brother of

King Fahd, is taking a leave of absence and may be replaced, informed sources said.

The royal family has usually sought to placate fundamentalist Muslims, who like Al Awdah call for greater censorship of television, the cloistering of women and stricter controls on the behaviour of foreigners in the kingdom.

The decision to cancel Al Awdah's sermon apparently was taken on Abdul Illah's personal initiative and appears to have incurred royal displeasure because it led to the confrontation.

One diplomat said there were reports that a number of protesters were arrested and taken to Riyadh for questioning. But the reports could not be confirmed.

Buraydah is a centre for the fundamentalist Wahhabi sect of Islam, named after the 18th century preacher Abdul Wahhab whose descendants have

been allied with the current Al Saud dynasty ever since.

In another sign of renewed pressure from conservatives, Saudi Arabia's highest religious authority, Sheikh Abdel Aziz Bin Baz, handed King Fahd a petition on May 18 calling for greater enforcement of Islamic strictures.

Like Saudi liberals, the conservatives asked the king to speed up creation of a consultative council — but they said it should make all decisions based on the sharia, or Islamic law.

The petition, signed by dozens of conservatives, also called for punishment of those guilty of corruption "without any exception of rank," and justice in distributing the kingdom's vast oil wealth, a veiled criticism of the royal family.

The conservatives advocated the creation of a strong army, an implicit criticism of the country's small armed forces

which proved unable to cope with the Iraqi threat on their own.

The official Saudi press agency late Sunday quoted a cryptic statement from the country's council of ulemas, the highest religious body in the kingdom, that denounced the public airing of the demands.

The council, which is headed by Bin Baz, said such publicity "does not serve the (public) interest nor does it help piety and devotion."

Although it was not specific, the council appeared to be criticising the widespread circulation of the petition, excerpt of which appeared in Egyptian, American and British newspapers. Saudi Arabia has an obsession with secrecy in such matters.

Ironically, the calls for creation of a consultative council, social justice and a crackdown on corruption also are key de-

mands of Saudi liberals.

Analyst Charles Snow said the petition's demands, if met, would entail "a significant curtailment of the ruling family's authority at home."

Snow, writing in the respected Middle East Economic Survey, speculated that King Fahd might placate the conservatives by giving them a majority of seats in the proposed consultative council, giving it a "radically different complexion than most observers... anticipated."

But he stressed that this "might not satisfy the religious reformers since the assembly proposed by the ruling family is a relatively toothless affair, whereas the ulema appear to be after a real say in how the country is run."

He stressed: "If that proves to be the case, the war will indeed have had a significant impact of the kingdom's political balance — but not the expected one."

Algerian police fire on fundamentalists

ALGIERS (R) — Police, using live and rubber bullets, opened fire for the first time Tuesday against thousands of Muslim fundamentalists demanding an immediate Islamic state just over three weeks from Algeria's first multiparty general election, eyewitnesses said.

In the most serious clash in three days of disturbances in central Algiers, one protester was seriously wounded by gunfire, the witnesses said.

Thousands of angry militants, replying with stones to the police, chanted: "He is dead... it is our first martyr."

The crackdown followed interior ministry orders to end illegal protests in the capital where police had only used tear gas and water cannon during the earlier disturbances.

As the wounded man was taken away in an ambulance, police fired in the air to back demands that the crowd disperse.

The capital has been shaken by three days of disturbances and most shops closed Tuesday, taxis stopped and little public transport could be seen.

The militants have taken to the streets to press Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) demands that electoral laws be changed.

They were also demanding that President Chadli Benjedid face voters in a presidential election alongside the June 27 poll for parliament.

But the demands on the street have escalated.

The thousands of gathering militants shouted: "We want an Islamic state immediately, we do not need a vote."

The FIS says the elections are already fixed, with electoral laws favouring the National Liberation Front (FLN) which has run the country since independence from France in 1962.

It has called an indefinite general strike to back its demands but the stoppage appears to have had little effect on key sectors of the economy, such as gas and transport. Postal and other service industries have been disrupted.

The militants converged on the capital's May 1st Square after being cleared from there and another stronghold, Martyrs' Square, in pre-dawn police raids.

The wounded man was hit near the sports complex of El Harcha, some 700 metres from the centre of May 1st Square, witnesses said.

The Algerian press agency APS said 600 people had been admitted to Mustapha Hospital suffering from the effects of gas.

The hospital said only two were seriously injured, one who had just an operation and another who suffered from asthma.

"There are no dead, despite persistent rumours," an official source told Reuters.

The interior ministry Monday night, after the most serious confrontation since electioneering started, ordered an immediate

crackdown on illegal protests.

It said they had "generated an atmosphere of insecurity and disrupted the normal life of the citizens."

Police and demonstrators battled for nearly an hour Tuesday with protesters using paving stones against the police.

As the protest started, thousands of fundamentalists, coming from the suburbs of Kouba and El Harcha joined the crowd.

Witnesses said that after nearly an hour, police firing in the air took control of the square, one of two main rallying points which have been taken over by FIS militants for the past week.

They forced the activists to disperse and the capital echoed to chants of small defiant groups and the dull crack of tear gas being fired.

Some protesters, masks covering their faces, picked up tear gas canisters and hurled them back at police.

Scores feared dead in Addis Ababa arms dump explosion

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Scores of people were feared killed when a huge arms dump blew up before dawn Tuesday in a southern suburb of Addis Ababa.

Rebels who took control of the Ethiopian capital a week ago said the explosion, which set off a huge fire at a nearby fuel depot, was caused by saboteurs.

Rebel commander Bereket Simon blamed the blast on remnants of the former government of ousted ruler Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Red Cross officials said they had no idea of the scale of casualties as much of the area was still burning, but several of the residents streaming away from the area said they had seen bodies.

One resident, Endris Ahmed, 55, said he saw scores of bodies and many houses destroyed or on fire.

The explosion buried artillery shells, mortar bombs and rockets across the city of three million. The shells hit the fuel depot which exploded in a massive orange mushroom.

It blew out windows in a two-kilometre radius and cracked open nearby office and apartment blocks.

John Mathai, soundman for the international news film agency

Visnews, was killed in the fuel depot explosion as he and his Nairobi-based cameraman Mohammad Amin approached the area to film the burning ammunition dump, colleagues said.

Amin was badly injured.

An enormous twisting tornado of thick smoke spiralled into the sky, blackening the city's southern suburbs. The smoke from the blast was so thick it shrouded the red and orange flames and the bursting artillery shells for minutes.

"The noise was incredible, we turned away," said Colin Blaine, a correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) who was with the Visnews crew but was not hurt.

"They (Mathai and Amin) were crossing a river, going down a bank, when it hit them," he said.

Blaine told Reuters he saw about half a dozen bodies in the area and a lot of damage.

Most of the wounded who reached hospitals were brought by relatives or friends in private cars. Most had wounds from shrapnel and flying debris. Many were children.

The neighbourhood where the explosion occurred was crammed with shanty dwellings, many of them made of wood and mud.

The force of the explosion would have blown them away.

By midday, few casualties had reached the city's already overcrowded hospitals.

At one Red Cross station, two dozen vehicles were still parked hours after the blast. The drivers said they did not have the spare parts to run them.

Seven hours after the first explosion, black smoke still poured from the fire at the oil depot.

Thousands of people streamed out of the area, many of them with possessions such as televisions and fridges piled high on pick-up trucks.

Women carried babies in their arms and belongings on their heads.

There was panic as more explosions boomed behind them.

"Run, run, the fire is coming," they shouted at reporters travelling towards the blaze.

Fighters of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) tore the area with loud hailer, warning people to stay away in case of further explosions.

"This is sabotage," said Teklewold Assefa, head of the rebels' relief group, Rest.

The explosions took place only hours after EPRDF leader Meles Zenawi said on television Monday evening that rebel forces controlled virtually the whole country.

State radio blamed the explosion on saboteurs but did not say who was responsible.

Residents living near the scene said they heard gunfire nearby about half an hour before the first explosion.

Ammunition ignited by the first blast at 4:25 a.m. (0125 GMT) traced crazy patterns in the sky before falling up to three kilometres away, setting off secondary fires.

Windows shattered and plaster fell from ceilings across the city.

One resident, Abebe Haile, said thieves had tried to loot the possessions of those fleeing.

"EPRDF fighters fired at the looters but they hit a man standing next to me. Three others were wounded," he said.

Several ammunition dumps have exploded in and around Addis Ababa over the past 10 days as the northern-based rebels fought their way into the city.

One such blast last week was believed to have killed hundreds of people.

U.S. rejects Perez de Cuellar's Iraqi revenue formula; Britain says Iraq violating U.N. resolution

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government Monday rejected the U.N. secretary general's 30 per cent limit on oil revenue Iraq should pay for war damage and said it wants Iraq to give up half its revenue.

"As a result of the damages incurred, and Iraq's continued repressive policies, we believe the figure suggested is too low," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said.

U.S. officials previously suggested a 40-50 per cent level, but diplomats in New York had said the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council had generally agreed to leave the matter to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the U.N. Compensation Commission.

Perez de Cuellar made his proposal Friday in a report to the Security Council which has projected annual Iraqi oil exports to reach \$21 billion by 1993, assuming that sanctions are lifted and it is allowed to resume exports.

Some council members have called for a lower percentage. Britain suggested 26 per cent to match the share Iraq is believed to have been spending on its military.

But Ms. Tutwiler said the United States would discuss with fellow Security Council members its desire to increase the limit to 50 per cent.

"We do not think that the 30 per cent level suggested is adequate to compensate on a timely basis Kuwaitis and the others who have suffered so grievously at Iraq's hands," she said at the department's daily briefing for reporters.

"The Security Council is not obligated to approve the secretary general's recommendation, although certainly his recommendation will carry great weight," Ms. Tutwiler said.

The United States has veto power on the council but Ms.

Tutwiler said she was not sure whether it would apply to the decision on the secretary general's recommendation. She said there is no date set for the matter to come before the council.

In another development Monday, Britain accused Iraq of violating the U.N. Security Council's "human shield" resolution by detaining a former British hostage.

The complaint comes as the Security Council is preparing to conduct its first 60-day review of Iraq's compliance with council resolutions on the Gulf crisis.

The council is to consider whether to lift the embargo on the import of non-military goods into Iraq "in light of the policies and practices" of Baghdad.

Britain, as one of the five permanent council members with veto power, could back any attempt to loosen the sanctions on Iraq.

Israeli court sentences 'Jordanian soldier'

LOD (AP) — An Israeli military court sentenced a 19-year-old "Jordanian soldier" to 28 years in prison Tuesday on charges he attempted to kill Israeli troops after "infiltrating from Jordan."

The court handed down the sentence against Raed Kader Ibrahim Auwad after he pleaded guilty to a charge of firing on Israeli soldiers with intent to kill along the Jordan River on Aug. 19, 1990.

Auwad's bullets failed to hit any Israeli soldiers, but the court's chief judge, Lt. Col. Aharon Alperin, said the lengthy sentence was necessary as a warning to potential infiltrators.

The court said Auwad, who did not belong to any guerrilla group, infiltrated across the Jordan River with another soldier, each armed with automatic weapons and 14 magazines of ammunition.

Iran marks anniversary of Khomeini's death

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran lowered its flags to half mast Tuesday as mourners gathered around the gold-domed tomb of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini for the second anniversary of his death.

The state-run Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said mourners at Khomeini's shrine in the Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery 16 kilometres south of Tehran, numbered in the hundreds of thousands. It did not give a more precise estimate.

Inside the packed shrine, decorated with giant glittering chandeliers and plus Persian carpets donated by the people, mourners listened as speakers recited Koranic verses, IRNA said.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the crowds included some 25,000 foreign guests.

More than 15,000 buses shuttled mourners from around the country to the site, IRNA said, adding that vehicles still trying to get the scene were locked in a traffic jam extending 3 kilometres from the shrine.

IRNA reported that in addition to the crowd already inside the sprawling compound, about 200,000 mourners were advancing towards the shrine's southern and eastern entrances.

Khomeini died of cancer at 10:45 p.m. on June 3, 1989.

When his death was officially announced the next day, millions poured into the streets, pounding themselves, scratching their faces and beating their breasts in grief.

In a speech at the shrine, Khomeini's successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urged Iranians to "remain united and not lose patience."

But most Iranians lost patience with Khomeini's revolution even during his lifetime.

The revolution, which toppled Iran's monarchy and replaced it with the Islamic republic, soured with its inability to provide basic needs.

Soaring inflation, shortages, bureaucratic bottlenecks and corruption, which persisted during the 1980-88 war with Iraq, transformed Iran from an oil-rich developing country into an economic wreck.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, elected only weeks after Khomeini died, has tried to nudge the revolution away from Khomeini's hard-line legacy, and towards rebuilding the economy.

Going against Khomeini's anti-Western, anti-Arab streak, Rafsanjani improved ties with the West and with Arab neighbours.

Aware of mounting public dis-

content, Rafsanjani's priority has been to pull Iran out of the economic quagmire of the revolution and improve the people's basic lives.

This has angered hardliners led by Ahmad Khomeini, the patriarch's only surviving son, who have accused the government of selling out the revolution.

Kuwaiti Doctors concerned about lack of mental health care

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti doctors treating patients brimming with anger and depression are worried that the government is devoting too little attention to healing the mental scars of the Gulf war.

"The government is too busy repairing burning oil wells," said consultant psychologist Jassem Hajia. "What we need to do is repair the Kuwaiti person. This is far more important than economic reconstruction," the American-trained doctor said.

Doctors report a surge in the

number patients they are treating for a variety of illnesses ranging from stress to rape caused by Iraq's often brutal seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

They are also concerned about the current atmosphere in Kuwait, a tiny Gulf state that previously basked in money and wealth.

There is tangible tension between those who endured Iraqi occupation and those who lived comfortably in exile.

"The occupation created two

Kuwaiti nations, those who stayed and those who went away," clinical psychologist Botthayna Al Moqawi said in an interview with Reuters.

"Those who stayed really suffered. They feared for their lives every day. Those who went away only suffered when they came back and found their country ruined. But both groups need help."

Three months after Kuwait was freed, hundreds of armed troops still patrol the streets. Behind their thick sunglasses, many appear to be combat ready. They frighten people.

There is aggression on the streets. People drive as if it were the first day of occupation and they were fleeing. State media say more people are dying in car crashes than under the occupation.

The mental doctors' job was previously complicated by a traditional reserve towards mental health care among residents of Kuwait, in many other ways an ultra-modern and sophisticated country with one of the highest per capita incomes in the world.

But the reserve has come tumbling down because of the Gulf war, doctors say. People are coming forward to seek help in the consulting rooms of private therapists and in hospitals,

Talabani says guerrillas ready to fight Iraq again

ANKARA (R) — Kurdish guerrillas are ready to resume their uprising against the Iraqi government if they cannot achieve autonomy by peaceful means, a Turkish newspaper Tuesday quoted Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani as saying.

"We fighting for peace. The peshmergas (Kurdish guerrillas) are ready for war... we have an army, we have arms. The Iraqi rule cannot stop the Kurdish revolution," Talabani told the leading daily Milliyet in an interview.

It was the first time a Kurdish leader had threatened to revive the revolt that flared in March after Iraq's defeat by the U.S.-led allies in the Gulf war.

"I am hopeful. At the end we shall be the winners. Because our nation stands. We have our arms in our hands," he said.

The paper said it interviewed Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, one of two main Kurdish opposition groups, in the town of Mawat near Sulaimaniya in north Iraq.

"If democracy is established in Iraq, Kurdish autonomy will have a guarantee. If dictatorship remains, there will be no peace," he said.

He said he still hoped for a breakthrough in talks between the government and a Kurdish delegation led by Massoud Barzani.

Talabani, who led a first round of talks in April, said he would go back to Baghdad if the talks reached deadlock.

U.N. officials in Baghdad say the talks do not seem to have made any progress. Barzani's delegation left a Baghdad hotel 10 days ago and has not been seen since.

An Iraqi ministry of information official said last Monday the delegation was still in Baghdad and the talks were continuing and making progress.

Talabani said last week the talks were stalled over the borders of an autonomous region. The Kurds want the oil city of Kirkuk to be included.

"The Iraqi authorities accept that Kirkuk is within Kurdish territory. But they say they will have broken some rules if Kirkuk is included in autonomous Kurdistan," Talabani told Milliyet, but did not elaborate.

"If we can persuade the Iraqi government that we do not plan to set up an independent Kurdistan, the problem may be solved."

Libya walks out of summit in protest against Negeria

ABUJA, Nigeria (R) — Libya walked out of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit Monday in a protest against Nigeria which is hosting the meeting.

Foreign Minister Ibrahim Mohamed Beshari told reporters the Libyan delegation would leave Abuja, Nigeria's future capital, immediately.

"I have decided to make my stand very clear... We are leaving right now," he said after the summit's opening session.

Nigeria's Military President Ibrahim Babangida is the OAU's incoming president, replacing Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni.

Beshari, who headed the Libyan delegation in the absence of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, said Libya was protesting against Nigeria's intervention in other countries such as Liberia.

"We don't see it as correct for any country to intervene in the internal affairs of another country," Beshari said.

Nigerian troops are leading a West African force sent to Liberia last August at the height of that country's civil war.

They are protecting the interim government of President Amos Sawyer in Monrovia Against Charles Taylor's Libyan-backed rebels.

Beshari said Nigeria had also adopted "an unfriendly position" when Libyan prisoners of war were whisked out of Chad last December.

Several hundred men were flown to Nigeria by the U.S. air force after Chadian President Hissene Habre was toppled by rebel leader Idriss Deby, who is on good terms with Libya.

Tripoli said the Libyans were taken against their will but Chadian and American officials said they wanted to leave because they had become Gaddafi opponents while in captivity.

Diplomats at the time described the Libyans as "contras" who were trained by U.S. army instructors to destabilise Gaddafi.

Beshari said Nigeria had refused to allow the men's families or the international Red Cross to visit them.

The Libyans were only briefly in Nigeria where they were an acute embarrassment to Babangida's military government. They later moved on to Zaire and Kenya before being taken to the United States last month.

Wall Street

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SHEPHERD Hotel

Amman's Super DISCO

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Amman Municipality 787111

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Repairs 661101

Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101

Radio Jordan 714111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 813615

Electric Power 633681

Company 06-53200

RJ Flight Information 06-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816

Akshel Maternity, J. Amn 642412

Jabal Amman Maternity 642662

Mallat, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

AMMAN:

Dr. Khalid Mu'addi 743500

Dr. Saad Tawfik 788285

Dr. Abdul Qader Lala 696048

Dr. Khalid Al Jafari 747740

Fares Pharmacy 661912

Ferdous Pharmacy 778336

Al Asema Pharmacy 670355

Nasrallah Pharmacy 623672

Al Saleh Pharmacy 636730

Yacoub Pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani Pharmacy 637660

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 75121

Highway Police 643402

Traffic Police 696390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 608000

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 771111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:30 Children's programme

19:00 Documentary

19:05 News in French

19:15 French varieties

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 After Henry

21:10 Our House

22:00 News in English

22:30 Not A Penny More, Not A Penny Less

PRAYER TIMES

03:55 Fajr

05:27 Sunrise (Sunrise) Doha

12:33 Dhuhr

14:15 Asr

15:36 Maghrib

18:10 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch, Tel. 510740

Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625453

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 883326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811225

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 673691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Slight rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be northerly moderate to strong and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 18 / 32

Aqaba 24 / 40

Dead Sea 16 / 35

Jordan Valley 21 / 38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

18:15 Jeddah (RJ)

11:15 Laraca, Damascus (RJ)

17:45 Belgrade, Islamabad (RJ)

18:55 London, Paris (RJ)

19:15 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

19:30 Madrid, Rome (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:00 Sanaa (TV)

15:00 Baghdad (LN)

22:00 Paris, Damascus (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

12:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

12:30 Tripoli, Tunis (RJ)

15:00 London, Paris (RJ)

21:00 New Delhi (RJ)

21:45 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700 / 600

Banana 500 / 450

Banana (Mukammur) 450 / 400

Beans 250 / 200

Cabbage 120 / 80

Carrot 250 / 200

Cauliflower 200 / 150

Cucumber (large) 150 / 100

Cucumber (small) 120 / 80

Eggplant 350 / 250

Garlic 300 / 400

Lemon 300 / 200

Lentils (per one) 350 / 300

Marrow (large) 120 / 80

Marrow (small) 100 / 70

Onion (large) 240 / 180

Orange 200 / 150

Pepper (hot) 280 / 220

Pepper (sweet) 300 / 250

Potato 150 / 100

Radish 300 / 250

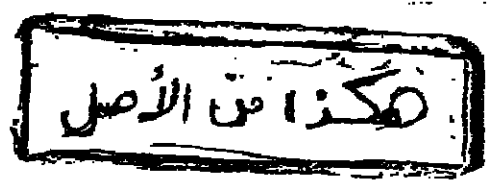
Sage 450 / 350

Sweet melon 280 / 240

Tomatoes 220 / 180

Watermelon 270 / 220

Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 08153200-5, where it should always be verified.



ATF opens Arab-German dialogue

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Thought Forum (ATF) Wednesday opens a two-day German-Arab dialogue designed to promote Arab-German relations.

A total of 28 participants from Jordan, Germany, Syria, Egypt, the United Kingdom and Palestine will take part in the dialogue which will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Apart from Prince Hassan, the opening session will be addressed by Dr. Udo Steinbach, head of the German team and an expert on Middle East issues.

The topics include: new requirements for a German policy in the Middle East, Arab-German cooperation in trade and economic development, Germany's role in the Arab World, perspective of a German-Arab cultural cooperation, Arab-German cultural communication and cooperation, the role of united Germany and its contribution to the new world order, the effects of a unified Germany and its role in the Arab World and a future outlook on Arab-German cooperation.



Premier visits JUST

IRBID (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Tuesday paid a visit to the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) and was briefed on its programmes and future plans.

Mr. Badran toured a number of departments and inspected installations and other projects in the campus.

At a meeting with the Council of Deans, the prime minister urged the university council to set up a training hospital for the doctors graduating from the university's Faculty of Medicine and offer services to the local community.

The prime minister, who was accompanied on the visit by a number of government officials, was told by university President Kamel Ajlouni that there were 63 foreign professors and teachers, among the 318 staff, and that the university was turning out post-graduate students and was planning to expand.

JUST will this Sunday graduate its third batch of students, numbering 490, including 28 post graduates.

Following the tour and the meeting with the staff, the prime minister was decorated with the university medal.

Meeting tackles Mashreq project

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day meeting of the Steering Committee of the five year Mashreq (Orient) project started Tuesday at the Amman-based Regional Office of the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA).

Participants will discuss the project's achievements during its first year, its plan of action, the annual report and the preparation of its budget for next year.

The Mashreq project is a regional project focussing on transferring available technology to farmers in Syria, Jordan and Iraq, with the aim of increasing the production of barley and fodder for livestock in the critical rainfall zones in the three countries.

The five year project is financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).

The three-day meeting will discuss the results that were achieved, the workplans and the training and educational plan which is a major focus of the projects.



Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah (third right) and UNDP president representative in Jordan Ali Adiga (second left) Tuesday sign agreement on developing training centre in Hashemi Al Shamali (Petra photo)

U.N. agency helps build development training centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) is contributing \$408,525 towards the completion of a development training centre in Al Hashemi Al Shamali district, in eastern Amman, in accordance with an agreement signed in Amman Tuesday.

The project is being implemented by the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF), with loans and contributions from a number of Arab and foreign sources, and the UNFPA grant will only help cover the cost of salaries for experts, from Jordan and abroad, who will be giving training at the centre, and part of the equipment needed for the project, according to a QAF official.

He told the Jordan Times that the project entailed setting up premises, of nearly 7,200 square metres in area, on a 12-dunum plot of land owned by QAF that

will serve as a national and regional training centre.

Part of the centre will serve as a training section for Jordanians and other personnel from the Arab World in skills pertaining to pre-school education, community development and income generating projects, the official said.

The second part is intended as a pilot community project, which, although will serve the local community, will also be used as a workshop for the experts and the trainees, with the Hashemi Shamali district serving as a case study for the project.

The project is already under construction, but more funds are required, and the overall cost can not be assessed at the moment, said the official.

The project, to be known as the Zein Al Sharaf Development Centre, entails setting up special sections for computers and for equipment used in training per-

sonnel to be later involved in community development projects in Jordan.

Established in 1985, QAF aims at promoting, consolidating and organising national capabilities and resources in support of social development and a higher quality of life for the Jordanian people.

QAF has already set up various community centres and social development units around the country, largely benefiting rural population settlements.

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma is chairperson of Board of Trustees.

QAF raises funds through donations, gifts and loans. Signing the agreement for Jordan, Tuesday, was Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah, and for the UNFPA, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resident representative in Jordan.

Investor: No services sector without a strong money exchange system

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Following the recent crisis, many experts seem to believe that Jordan will witness an economic boom as more investors are repatriating their funds to invest in the Jordanian market. This optimism, however, is not shared by some, who believe that Jordan's economic system is still hampered by bureaucracy and certain laws that contradict, by their nature, the free market economy.

Ghazi Saudi, an investment consultant and money changer, said he believed that money changers were a vital part of the economy and should be given the right to reoperate in the Kingdom. "Without a strong money exchange system in the Kingdom, we cannot establish a reliable and well developed services sector," Mr. Saudi told the Jordan Times.

In 1988, following the sharp decline in the value of the Jordanian dinar, there was a wide crackdown on money exchangers, under the government of Mr. Zeid Rifai. According to the government, money exchangers were accused of bringing the value of the dinar down. Thus martial

law was implemented, and all money exchange offices were closed down.

According to Mr. Saudi, the money exchangers were used as a "scapegoat" by the government who was not, to start with, "honest" with the people concerning the true value of the dinar. He said that Jordan's economy was in bad shape due to a rise in foreign debt and lack of foreign exchange to cover increasing imports.

These reasons, combined with other problems, prompted the government to start negotiations with the World Bank, in 1986, to plan for new measures to combat the deteriorating economy. "One of the World Bank's conditions was to devalue the Jordanian dinar in order to weaken the purchasing power and, as a result, lower the living standards by cutting down on imports," Mr. Saudi said.

"Now the situation is different. The Jordanian market has proved to be stable, and investors are encouraged to invest in this country," he said.

A new draft law concerning the reoperation of money exchangers is scheduled to be discussed in the Lower House of Parliament before the end of the year. "The draft law envis-

ages tough terms on money exchangers which are bound to restrict their operations," Mr. Saudi said. "In addition, banks do not wish to see money exchangers operating again, so that they can maintain the present monopoly on the money market," Mr. Saudi added.

The crackdown on money exchangers has also given rise to an emerging black market in Jordan. Mr. Saudi, who insisted on calling it the "unofficial market" said that this kind of operation was run by "vendors and unprofessional people" and called for establishing a "good money exchange system," to avoid dealing with such operations.

According to Mr. Saudi, in 1980, close to 70 per cent of the total money exchange operations in Jordan were held with outside markets, especially neighbouring Arab markets that had no money exchange operations, like Iraq, Syria and Egypt. Now, he added, the situation is different with the reopening of the Lebanese market and the trend in Syria and Iraq that aims at opening money exchange banks.

"We can still compete with the new emerging system if we establish a strong and official money exchange system here in Jordan," Mr. Saudi said.

21 factories closed down for polluting Zarqa River basin

By Khalil Abdul Salam
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In keeping with its warnings to factories violating health safety regulations, the government Tuesday announced the closure of 21 factories in the Zarqa Governorate and said they were found to have violated health safety regulations, causing damage to public health and the environment.

The closure came only four days after the start of a campaign, by the Zarqa Public Health Committee, to discover factories and companies which violate rules and regulations concerning public health.

A committee spokesman said Monday that a certain percentage of water flowing out from factories and companies located within the Zarqa River basin and into the Zarqa River that feeds the King Talal Dam, contained bacterial and chemical pollutants.

He said that many of the 36 factories and companies located

within the basin did not comply with the regulations and ignored directives by Prime Minister Mudar Badran to instal equipment for the treatment of waste water.

The order for the closure was issued by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment and Acting Health Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben.

Following are the companies and factories ordered closed: the Industrial, Commercial, and Agricultural Company, the United Factories Company in Zarqa, the Blankets Company, the Jordan Yeast Company, the Jordan Pulverisation and Intermediate Petro-Chemicals Industries, the Jordan Paper and Cardboard Factories Company, the Jordan Industrial and Match Company, the Al Hussein Iron and Steel Factories, the Jordan Chemical Industries Company, the Arab Food Company, the Paints Factory, the Intermediate Petro-Chemicals Industries Company,

the Jordan Sulphochemicals Company, the Arab Iron and Steel Industries Company, the Jordan Pipes Manufacturing Company, the Duleil Poultry Marketing Company, the Fine Hygienic Paper Company, the Duleil Dairy Products Factory, Zeidan Ice Cream Factory, the Jordan Tanning Company and Al Niser Distilleries Factory.

The government had earlier given one month to these companies to install proper equipment for the treatment of waste water so as to reduce the contamination in the river water flowing towards the King Talal Dam which eventually reaches the farmlands of the Jordan Valley region.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran had warned that violators of the law and health safety regulations risk having their factories closed down.

In the meantime, the committee was reported pursuing its campaigns to ensure that factories abide by the regulations. The

committee Chairman Ghaleb Izniqa said samples of waste water flowing out of the factories were being tested constantly and the committee submits regular reports about its findings.

Commenting on the closure order, Minister of Water and Irrigation Saad Hayel Serour said that a general survey was conducted by the committee, which comprises representatives of the ministries of water and irrigation, agriculture, industry and trade and other organisations, to monitor the water in the river.

The order for the closure was taken after the government had received a detailed report about the situation. The owners of closed factories had earlier been warned that they risk facing such situation unless they installed safety equipment, Mr. Serour added.

The contaminated water of the King Talal Dam was alleged to be responsible for the severe damages to the Jordan Valley crops in the past winter season.

Jordan-Gulf Bank staff protest management treatment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Staff of the Jordan and Gulf Bank Tuesday voiced concern about their future, noting that they have no job security and are threatened with dismissal from their jobs at any time.

At a meeting attended by staff from all branches of the bank and the Administrative Committee of the General Federation of Workers in Banks, insurance companies and accounting offices, the Jordan-Gulf Bank employees said they were being subjected to harassment and persecution in what it seemed to be a premeditated attempt to force them quit their jobs.

They called on the federation's Administrative Committee to do all it can to put an end to the arbitrary dismissals and demand that the same working conditions as in other banks throughout Jordan be applied to them.

The meeting resulted in the formation of a follow up committee which was suggested by the bank staff.

The committee will follow up on any further developments of the staff situation and will keep the federation's Administrative Committee informed of any such developments.

The federation's President Haidar Rashid said that the federation would tackle the issue with the parties concerned. He said that their situations should be no exception from other employees working in other banks.

He added that the federation's Administrative Committee would take the necessary measures to safeguard the rights of the bank staff, including their right to retain their positions in a natural working atmosphere.

The bank employees circulated a statement describing their problems and calling on the federation to intervene with a view to ensure an end to their persecutions.

Project for Dana village to boost local tourism

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Tuesday revealed details of a development project at Dana village, in the Tafleh Governorate of southern Jordan, and said that work would soon begin on the implementation of the integrated project.

The announcement was made by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Mohammad Al Zaben who said that the project was aimed at stimulating tourism in the region, "which is a beautiful area and has the potential of a tourist attraction."

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) has set up a wildlife reserve at Dana which is a scenically beautiful, wooded, mountainous section of the Rift Valley.

The wildlife reserve covers 100 square kilometres in area and is one of the few areas where viable population of larger mammals may survive, according to RSCN. It said that the mountain gazelle,

ibex and striped hyaena were among the species present in Dana reserve.

In revealing the ministry's plan, Dr. Zaben said that the project would be financed by a number of local organisations and international voluntary groups concerned about the conservation of nature.

In order to help Dana attract tourists, the minister said that the project entailed setting up a tourist camp together with public utilities opening roads and providing horses for the tourists and residential quarters for the artists to be involved in activities that would boost the economic and social life of the area.

Dr. Zaben, who was speaking at a meeting with ministry officials gathered to debate the finishing touches of the project, said that the site would be supplied with basic services like water and electricity, and the local residents would acquire special training in handicrafts. Lands

around Dana village, he said, will also be developed in an exemplary manner and the residents and farmers will be encouraged to breed bees and keep cattle and sheep.

As the meeting, a decision was taken for the RSCN to draw up the main plans for the project, while the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) will undertake the task of setting up cooperatives and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHFF) will conduct survey with the purpose of defining the role it can play in the area.

The minister said that a joint team from the ministries of agriculture, water and irrigation public works and housing will, on June 12, pay a visit to the project site and submit a final report on the requirements needed to be studied in the coming month.

Representative of a number of concerned ministries and factories, like the cement factory and the RSCN, were present at the meeting.

Jordan, Turkey review tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Turkey Tuesday started meetings paving the ground for an executive protocol to implement agreements signed between them in 1966 and 1989, aimed at boosting cooperation in tourism.

The talks are conducted through a joint Jordanian-Turkish tourism committee chaired by Nasri Atallah, Minister of Tourism's secretary general, and Director of tourism in Turkey Necdet Sonmez.

The two officials said at their initial meeting that Jordan and Turkey both sustained severe losses to their tourism industry resulting from the Gulf crisis, and that they would try to help revive this industry through mutual agreements.

Mr. Atallah told the meeting, which is expected to last four days, that Jordan had

sustained nearly \$250 million in lost tourism during the crisis last year, and that the Kingdom was expected to sustain nearly \$450 million in lost tourism during 1991.

In outlining the Kingdom's plans to stimulate the tourism industry, Mr. Atallah said that Jordan's revenues stood at nearly \$500 million in 1989, accounting for nearly nine per cent of the country's gross national product (GNP).

He said that Jordan's tourism industry could be developed easily in view of its proximity to Europe and its close ties and cooperation with Turkey in the fields of marketing tourist attractions and conducting joint campaigns with Turkey abroad especially in Japan and Europe.

In reviewing Turkey's tourism situation, Mr. Sonmez said

that income from tourism normally accounts for nearly one quarter of the country's revenues from foreign trade. But he noted that the Gulf crisis dealt a severe blow to the tourism industry, prompting the government to give soft loans to tourist organisations to boost their operations.

Ministry officials said that Jordan and Turkey would agree on restoring the old Islamic castles in Turkey and Jordan, repair resthouses along the Hijaz railway, which links Syria with Jordan and Saudi Arabia, conduct joint training programmes for personnel from both sides and carry out campaigns to market tourism in Jordan and Turkey.

Also on the agenda are such questions as cooperation in land and air transport.

Symposium reviews recommendations of Damascus training programme

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in a four-day symposium for vocational training centres trainers and supervisors, held at the Vocational Training Corporation's Trainers Training Centre between June 1-4, Tuesday stressed the need for implementing the recommendations of a training programme on documentation and information held in Damascus in November 1990.

The recommendations called for setting up a regional documentation and information network on vocational education and training, and for establishing a regional documentation and information unit on vocational training.

The recommendations also called for exchange of documents and information among Arab countries through a central unit to be set up in the project premises. Also included in the recom-

mendations was a call for providing training opportunities for workers in documentation and information and enhancing the link between practical training and production.

The Damascus training programme also recommended that a glossary of vocational training terms be compiled in Arabic and that standard Arabic synonyms for English terms be compiled.

The recommendations also stressed the need for encouraging and promoting rural income-generating projects.

The symposium is organised by the Amman-based Regional Project for Skills Development in the Arab World. The project is funded by the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) while the technical assistance is provided by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Discussions to tackle environmental issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Society for the Control of Environment Pollution organises in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany a symposium, on the occasion of the International Environment Day, on June 5, 1991, the activity comes under the National Environmental Information and Education Programme.

The symposium will concentrate on "Climate Change." Speakers will tackle the global state of environment in addition to the global climate change.

The symposium will take place at the Royal Cultural Centre, a society statement said Tuesday.

As the world is loading the environment with various kinds of pollutants and exhausting its resources, climate change gradually starts to appear. The increase of carbon dioxide concentration and other pollutants have led to the "greenhouse" phenomenon. Heat that reaches earth from the sun is mostly absorbed by pollutants and kept near the earth. It is estimated that

at the end of this century the earth crust temperature will rise within a range of 2-3 degrees centigrade. The result would be melting of ice accumulated at the two poles leading to sea level rises and the flooding of so many coastal areas and fertile agricultural lands.

Pollutants as well have caused the depletion of ozone layer. This layer acts as a barrier to prevent the intrusion of sun ultraviolet light which will lead to the increase in the prevalence rate of skin cancer.

No doubt, the world has to make quick and effective moves to reduce the pollutants quantities responsible for the crust earth temperature elevation. This move will require each country to make certain commitments that cope with its resources and development plans. The seriousness of this issue requires combined efforts from all countries in the process of finding the solutions so that we preserve our planet in a good, healthy and pollutants free shape.

ANNOUNCEMENT Furnished Luxury Villa for sale

A luxury villa for sale, "the residence of the former general manager of Petra Bank," located in northern Abdoun area, Orthodox Club street, luxuriously furnished. Sale can be with or without the furniture according to the following conditions and procedures:

- 1- People who are interested in buying have to submit their bids after examining the villa in a sealed envelope in hand or directed by registered mail to: Mr. Secretary of the Liquidation Committee in Petra Bank (under liquidation) at the building of the General Management/Wadi Saqra Street/P.O.Box 6854 Amman, and write on the envelope the statement "Villa Buying Bid".
- 2- The bid should be accompanied by a certified check or a bank guarantee to the favour of Petra Bank, in an amount equal to %10 of the bid's value as a deposit to enter the auction.
- 3- The bidder should include his name, address, and phone number clearly in his offer, and whether the offer includes the furniture or not.
- 4- The latest date for accepting bids after examining the villa will be at 2 p.m. on Wednesday 19.6.1991.
- 5- The bank is not committed to accept any bid, and has the right to cancel the auction without notice.
- 6- The winning bidder should submit the value of the villa in a period which does not exceed one week from the date of decision, otherwise, the bidder should bear a fine that equals %1 of the villa's value for each day of delay. In the case that he retreats, the deposit, mentioned in paragraph 2, will be confiscated.
- 7- The villa can be examined during office hours after a prior appointment.
- 8- For more information you can call Mr. Mousa Balo during office hours on the phone number 652709 — Amman.

Secretary of the Liquidation Committee

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Economic Forum

Whatever happened to economic planning?

By Abdalla Malki

ECONOMIC planning was the rising star during most of the second half of this century in both the socialist world and the Third World alike. Comprehensive development planning in particular was bred in the laboratory of centrally-planned economies, that is socialist ones. As these economies started crumbling, such planning has been similarly doomed.

Economic planning may be comprehensive or otherwise. Comprehensive planning means having an economic plan for each and every economic sector at the same time. Thus what we have is a set of sectoral plans coordinated together to achieve the overall goals of the economy regarding economic growth, job creation, curbing trade and international payment imbalances etc. Contrasted to comprehensive planning are sectoral planning and regional planning which are addressed to a specific sector or region. What is supposed to move forward here is not the whole economy as is the case with comprehensive planning but one sector or region which is expected to be the locomotive that pulls the economy forward. Regional planning aims at reducing development inequalities which are socially and politically not acceptable or otherwise constitute constraints on balanced economic development.

Because comprehensive planning is addressed to the whole economy, the respective plan will not succeed unless the whole economy moves in harmony and behaves in unison.

This means that there should be a central command. Hence comes the association of this planning with centrally-planned

economies or with powerful public sectors. Such planning is thus uncharacteristic of market economies where the movement of the economy is the product of countless decisions made by individuals and private enterprises. Neither is it familiar or needed in advanced economies where the issue at stake is not to achieve development but to improve on the economic progress already at hand. Thus it would be totally odd to talk about a five-year development plan for the United States, Switzerland or Britain.

When comprehensive development planning was taking its first steps towards stardom in the early sixties, Jordan was too quick to adopt this technique. Now that this phenomenon is being reversed, Jordan is similarly too quick to abandon it, as if we have been reacting mechanically to external developments and trends. However, giving up comprehensive planning is something and abandoning planning altogether is another. It might be right to scrap out the former but it is too premature to do the same to the latter.

Planning is a scientific way of streamlining efforts and devising means to attain them. If most countries decided that they have no more objectives to plan for, this would not be a good reason for us to follow suit. Our economy has not been centrally-planned enough to justify comprehensive planning at any time. But this does not mean that regional or sectoral planning is not needed. We have major economic issues that warrant and still warrant this planning.

Take the problem of unemployment which has proved itself to

be the main staying headache to the people and governments of Jordan alike. Measures to combat unemployment are varied. They have to be put in a consistent package to enable them to work together, not against each other, and to eliminate contradiction between this package of measures and other current policies. Such contradiction will have to be resolved, if it emerges, according to a national scale of priorities which favours, of course, the goal of reducing unemployment. Policies designed for this particular goal have to be continuous lest we should lose today what we gained yesterday.

In the example of unemployment we are talking therefore about national economic objectives, then about sorting them out and picking a priority objective (that is combating unemployment) and eventually about consistent and continued efforts to achieve it. Any student of economic planning will easily recognise these elements as making up economic planning. It is not comprehensive but it is planning and is needed to tackle outstanding economic problems.

With partial planning, a country can plan for developing a single sector (agriculture), a region (the south), a sub-sector (textile industries or wheat production), a single activity (oil development or agricultural marketing), a specific problem (unemployment or inflation), a single area (Aqaba Port) or any other issue (pollution). Jordan needs planning: the demise of comprehensive planning adds to the need for other forms of planning rather than abolishes it.

Message is the same

SOME purposely read too much into His Majesty King Hussein's interview with the French magazine *Le Point* while others also intentionally read too little in what he had to say not only about the peace process in the Middle East but on other, perhaps even more important, issues that disturb the security and stability of the area. To pick and choose from the interview and reproduce out of context is not exactly good journalism or good politics. Of course His Majesty called for the dismantling of age-old "taboos and clichés" and that the Arab side should have no reason to fear to talk to anybody including Israel. But there is nothing new in this posture, neither now nor in the past. When the Arabs were blessed with an empire unrivalled in power, culture and spiritual heights, they had no complexes whatsoever about engaging their enemies in direct dialogue and negotiations. But today things are indeed different. The problem is not whether any Arab leader would be willing to have face to face talks with Israeli leaders but whether Israeli leaders are willing to admit that they are occupiers of a land that is not theirs and return it to its rightful owners.

While U.S. Secretary of State James Baker shuffled the Middle East looking for a common ground, and while he was trying to negotiate with Arab leaders on behalf of Israel which claims it wants peace, Yitzhak Shamir has been repeatedly saying that he will not let go of one bit of sand from occupied Palestinian land. So what is it exactly that Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy is doing by offering invitations to Arab leaders to meet face-to-face with Israeli leaders?

His Majesty did say in the *Le Point* interview that "maybe future face to face contacts will dispel many of the fears that both sides have of each other at an appropriate time." That time will come when the hand of peace that is extended by the Arabs to Israel is reciprocated by Israeli leaders who can give land in return for their security and for peace in the region. There is no doubt whatsoever that what the King had in mind as a vehicle for achieving this is the projected peace conference in which it is taken now for granted that the two antagonist camps would talk to each other directly. Any other way would be playing into the hands of the right-wing Likud government in Israel, which is trying to pacify the U.S. by making noises about peace while at the same time preparing the ground for further animosity and hatred by being intransigent and obstinate. Jordanians and the rest of the Arab parties would be more than forthcoming should peace talks begin in earnest. Those who question Arab intentions need only challenge them to the negotiating table on the basis of international legitimacy and under the U.N. umbrella.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AS the world marks the lapse of 24 years of Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights this month, the Arabs wonder why only the Palestine question among other world problems does not acquire sufficient attention to warrant a just and lasting solution, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. The paper said that those who had hoped that the imposition of the world community's will on Iraq by force would pave the way for a similar application to the Palestine question, now realise their deep blunder and are disappointed to see the United States and its Western allies dealing with the Palestine problem with a totally different criteria, said the paper. The paper expressed the view that what the Western nations are implementing in the Arab region is a plan that can only serve their own interests and those of their Israeli ally. It asked when will those countries in the East or in the West become enthusiastic about a solution for the Middle East crisis and the Palestine problem by a degree equal to that characterising their enthusiasm over the Gulf crisis. The paper said that the outcome of the Gulf war has encouraged the United States and its allies to pursue their hostile stand towards the Arabs and to encourage the Israelis to hold on to the occupied territories. It said that the United States and its allies continue to live in the euphoria of the victory they achieved, and they are far from the mere idea of doing justice to the repressed Palestinians whose lands have been usurped for 24 years.

Reports about serious attempts being made to try to end differences among Arab countries and bring about solidarity among the Arab people in the wake of the Gulf war coincide with continued harassment being practised against the Jordanian, Palestinian and other Arab national in the Gulf countries, says a columnist in Al Dustour Arabic daily. Mohammad Kawash says such improper and inhuman treatment of Arab nationals can by no means be conducive to improving inter-Arab relations and is bound to further deepen the rifts among the Arab countries and Arab leaders, with detrimental consequences on the whole Arab Nation. The writer says as the Arab countries continue to harbour hostile intentions towards one another, the United States and its allies maintain a blockade on the Gulf of Aqaba harassing all ships heading towards Jordan including those bringing the country essential commodities. It seems that the United States policy of maintaining piracy on the open seas is an established one, and is being implemented against Jordan to pressure the country into succumbing to the will of the U.S.-Israeli alliance, says the writer. The writer is pessimistic about inter-Arab reconciliation as long as these hostile actions are continuing unabated, and as long as the U.S.-Israeli alliance continues to impose hegemony over the Arab region.

By Martin Walker

WITH the 1992 presidential election campaign still 18 months away, George Bush ought to be in trouble. He could be seeking a second term while Saddam Hussein remains in Baghdad. U.S. troops are still defending Kurdish refugees in Northern Iraq, the economy is stuck in recession, Dan Quayle is still the vice-presidential candidate, and the doctors hover around Mr. Bush's plane.

These ought to be hopeful, exciting times to be a Democrat. Instead, the party is engaged in its customary civil war. Cleveland has just hosted the first national convention of the Democrat Leadership Council, a group which believes that to win power the party must recover the central main-stream of American politics. Most of the party's putative presidential candidates attended. But some were pointedly not invited, including the presidential candidate in 1972, and a leading vote winner in 1988. "We are trying to change the party," said (Jesse) Jackson and (George) McGovern represent the ideological approach to government we are trying to change," explained DLC President Al From. "The DLC represents part of the timidity and excessive caution that has kept the Democrats from defining an alternative to the Republican approach," countered George McGovern. The Rev Jesse Jackson took one look at the conservatives who formed the DLC and dubbed them "the Southern white boys' caucus."

The DLC meeting was sponsored (red funded) by ATT, RJR Nabisco, Philip Morris, and other corporate giants whose interests might not seem immediately compatible with the traditional Democrat constituency. Like the rest of the party's liberal wing, McGovern preferred a rival conference in Iowa, of the Coalition for Democratic Values.

"We do not need two Republican parties," says the CDV director Heather Booth, explaining her faction's determination to keep the party loyal to the timid foreign policies and lavish welfare budgets which the DLC says have kept it out of the White House for a generation. But we do seem to be getting two Democratic Parties. Mr. Ron Brown, the engaging black lawyer, who is supposed to be the chairman of the real Democrat Party, went to Cleveland to warn against the danger of a split in the ranks.

Once again, the party appears to be confronting a new presidential election season with a death wish. The Democrats are America's natural party of government. Their majority in the House of Representatives has been unshaken since the fifties. Their grip on the Senate relaxed briefly with the Reagan tide, and has now been firmly recovered. But having won seven out of the first nine presidential races after the New Deal coalition in 1932, the Democrats have suffered White House exile for all but four of the last 23 years. Registered Democrats used to outnumber Republicans two-to-one. The ratio is now close to even, with the Republicans leading among younger voters.

There are two reasons for this, and the first is brutally simple — civil rights. Franklin Roosevelt's Grand Coalition which kept the Democrats in power brought together the block votes of the white South, the mass working-class votes of organised labour, and the liberal intelligentsia. In the sixties, the civil rights movement and the rebellion of Alabama's Governor George Wallace helped detach the white South, which Nixon's Republicans recruited. And then the Democrats' turn against the Vietnam



War alienated support among the fast-dwindling but still patriotic working-class.

The power of the white voting block in the South was plain in 1976: the Democrats won with Jimmy Carter, a Southern white from Georgia who brought the good ol' boys back into the fold. It was the only time the Democrat candidate has taken a majority of the white vote since 1964, when that other white Southerner Lyndon Johnson got to the White House on a landslide.

Racial sensibilities apart, there is a fine radical tradition in the white South. Until the boom after the 1960s, the South had been dirt-poor since the Civil War, fertile ground for populism. Huey Long, Lyndon Johnson, and Jimmy Carter all came from this poor, white, and progressive tradition. Its latest exemplar is Jim Hightower, the Texas Commissioner for Agriculture, one of the genuinely popular American leftists. Hightower says he knows how the Democrats can win their way back to the White House: "Be an unabashed, unapologetic, ungentrified, old-time working people's Democrat, challenging the Powers That Be on behalf of the Powers That Ought To Be. As my Aunt Eula put it: 'The water won't ever clear up till you get the bogs out of the creek.'"

The hogs have been in the creek for more than a decade now, taking too much for themselves and fouling the economic and environmental waters for the great majority of Americans.

Stirring stuff, and folksy too, but hog and creek metaphors don't carry too much weight with an electorate tuned in to CNN and the non-stop rock videos of MTV. The Old Guard of the Democrat Party of the industrial North had the same problem in 1984, when organised labour ran a classic Roosevelt-style campaign for Walter Mondale. In spite of the recession his policies had unleashed, Reagan swamped him, winning 49 of the 50 states.

The Democrats have yet to put together a new coalition capable of winning the White House. They are still unable to define with any political coherence the America that lies out there, ready to vote. (Less and less ready — in 1988, barely half of the U.S. electorate bothered to vote). The Democrats also have yet to define the kind of America they want to build, and appear to have lost that vision of a better, different nation which underpinned Roosevelt's and Kennedy's appeal. Reagan gave the Republicans a potent message of strong defences, no new taxes, traditional values and Americans standing tall: Bush's 1988 campaign exploited these with chillingly cal-

lous skill.

The second reason for the Democratic inability to win the White House is the party's genius for keeping control of Congress. In a bizarre way, the American government is now working just as the Founding Fathers intended in their doctrine of a separation of powers. The idea was that state power should be shared between a fairly powerful executive in the presidency which devised policies, a very powerful legislature in the Congress which kept control of the purse strings, and an independent judiciary to hold the ring.

For nine years, there has been constant tension between a Republican president seeking to cut taxes while keeping defence spending high, while the Democrat-controlled Congress was happy enough to cut taxes, but was even more determined to continue funding the social welfare, pension, and Medicare programmes. They compromised by spending the money, lowering taxes. The U.S. went from being the world's leading creditor to its leading debtor.

Meanwhile, the finances of the congressional wing of the Democrat Party boomed. The steady decline of the trade unions eroded one of their traditional sources, but they brilliantly exploited a new one, and sold their soul to the PAC-men in the process. PAC stands for Political Action Committees, which were meant to reform campaign funding and stop rich men and companies blatantly dominating politics. The idea was to limit individual donations and channel funding through broad-based PACs.

But money has a way of talking. In the 1990 congressional elections, the PACs raised \$375 million. Trade unions did well. The Teamsters' PACs raised \$10.5 million, and the public employees \$3.9 million. Any prospect of a national health insurance system will have to contend with the \$5.7 million raised by the American Medical Association; law reform strives in vain against the \$3.9 million raised by the Trial Lawyers' Association.

Money talks to power. Almost four-fifths of the PAC money went to incumbent congressmen. The Democrats received 66 per cent of this, and used the PAC system to lock themselves into power. In the last full-scale elections in 1988, Americans voted back in 402 of the 408 congressmen seeking re-election, which is a better survival rate even than the old Soviet Politburo.

"Democrats are gradually accepting the idea that Congress is ours and the White House is theirs," says Congressman

Robert Torricelli, a Democrat who used to work in Jimmy Carter's White House. Torricelli learned that Democrats congressmen are actually happier with a Republican president, because power then shifts to the congressional committees.

A Harris poll that came out the other day underscored the political schizophrenia that has Americans preferring a Republican president and a Democrat Congress. Bush was given a commanding lead of 62 against 33 for the likeliest Democrat contender, Senator Albert Gore. But when it came to voting for congressman, the Democrats had a clear lead of 51 to 42. So there is a smugly powerful section of the party which is not too much bothered about leading the country, as long as they can run the Congress. This disease seems even to be infecting viable candidates for the presidency, like Dick Gephardt, who made a strong run in 1988, but has now promised his fellow-congressmen that he will remain the Democrat leader in the House.

With what agenda are the Democrats leading the Congress? A strong party leadership in the House and Senate would have the platform and the power to forge an alternative Democrat programme. The party currently labours under the leadership of Speaker Tom Foley, who looks magnificent, with a craggy noble face. But Foley has a dismal record of blocking gun control and campaign finance reform and talking grandly of "bipartisanship" with the White House — in practice collaboration with Republican priorities.

Foley's latest performance revealed the way PAC-think is eroding the party's heart. He was answering those Democratic consultants who demand a firmer image for the party and criticised Foley's failure to hold the party together in the war powers mandate. Quoting the great labour leader John L. Lewis, Foley pronounced: "It ill behooves one who has sat at labour's table and who has been sheltered in labour's house to curse with equal fervour and fine impartiality both labour and its adversaries when they become locked in a deadly embrace." What he meant was keep quiet, and keep sending the PAC cheques.

The Democrats in the Senate are in rather better shape, thanks to their leader, George Mitchell of Maine. His low-key image conceals a thoughtful man of fine liberal instincts and relentless political skills. He killed off Bush's attempt last year to reward the rich with cut capital gains taxes after Foley's House Democrats had caved in, and

pushed the new Clean Air bill into law. His next mission is national health care reform.

And other Senate Democrats are at least putting together the building blocks of a new agenda. Albert Gore of Tennessee and Timothy Wirth of Colorado are staking out the potential Green constituency. And Senator Gore unveiled a thoughtful plan to increase taxes on six million rich Americans with incomes over \$135,000 (approx. £80,000) a year, and use the resulting \$20 billion to lower taxes for working families with children.

(Even though he has yet to announce, the smart money is swinging towards Gore as the Democrat candidate next year, partly because he broke ranks to vote with President Bush on the

Gulf war. But this stand, while improving his chances with the national electorate, could hamper him with the party faithful in the primaries.

There is another Democratic Party outside Washington, where the party still holds the bulk of the statehouses. Jimmy Carter and Michael Dukakis were governors who went forth to contend for the White House. Now the brooding intellectual Mario Cuomo of New York and Virginia's black centrist Douglas Wilder are on all the pundits' lists for next year's race.

The new arrangement for the primaries next year, which clusters the bulk of them into regional super-primaries in the first ten days of March, has combined with Bush's Gulf war popularity to change the traditional calendar which would have the race well under way.

But whoever the candidate, the various factions of the Democratic Party look in poor shape for the challenge. The Democrats no longer seem sure what they are for. They all agree that they are against the Budget deficit, against the Savings & Loan crisis, against crime and drugs and racism, against Cold War defence budgets, against welfare cuts and most of them are against new taxes. But most Republicans would say the same.

The issue are there: the grim state of the schools and inner cities; the collapsing roads and bridges; over a million people in America's prisons; over 30 million Americans without any health insurance; the vast burden of government debt which will next year cost more to service than the Pentagon; the stubborn recession. These cry out for a coherent Democratic agenda, for a candidate bold enough to state it and angry enough to care — *The Guardian*.

LETTERS

Segregation not the solution

To the Editor

I HAVE been reading recently about "segregating" all co-educational schools. For a while I could not see what the problem with co-education was. Then it dawned on me! We have got rid of all our education problems. We found a solution to the lack of schools and qualified teachers! We improved all those poorly-qualified teachers! We managed to make our curricula comprehensive and well-suited for the development of our society, and for the preparation of suitably qualified members of society! We have achieved perfection as we know it in the field of education, and having done that we have run out of problems! But being humans we need to have something to fill our time with and to worry about and so we created a problem and called it co-education.

What is the point? In Islam, as long as one is decently dressed, one can mix with members of the opposite sex. What then is the point of Islamic dress if there is no mixing? But the point is not religious. It is one way of imposing the views of a certain trend upon others. It is not for the better. It is not relevant to the real problems of education and it is not practical.

Co-education is a healthier approach than segregation. Many problems of our society between the sexes stem from the fact that both sexes do not understand each other because they have no contact. Members of both sexes need to get used to one another in order to appreciate and respect each other, and to be able to view one another as complete humans and not merely as stereotypes drawn by society.

A simple example is that women are viewed by men only as mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, but never as individual beings, the way a man may view his fellow man. And I am sure it is the other way round too. The only difference is that it satisfies the egos of men to be viewed as protectors and father-figures. Maybe that is one intention of segregation: suppress women and stop them from making any progress outside their homes.

We are not animals. We are human beings with brains to think. In order that we may have a more natural man/woman relationship we should actually encourage mixing from an early age (which can be done at schools) with close supervision from parents and teachers, if there is fear that problems may arise. This of course will put more weight on the shoulders of parents and educators, but are they not striving to "improve" society through education anyway? If so, then it is worth bearing an extra weight. Segregation is no answer to any kind of problem and co-education is definitely not a problem.

Samia Jalal,
Amman

Features

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1991

Global warming will have dire effects on Mediterranean coastline

By Munir Adgham

The following article was contributed by the National Environmental Information and Educational Programme of the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution. The author is the director of the National Programme.

GLOBAL change has been the theme of many international meetings in the last two decades. The influence of the human species on environment has become so pervasive that the effects must now be considered on a global scale. The chemistry of the atmosphere has been changed, and with it the interactions between the atmosphere and hydrosphere, the geosphere and the biosphere. The greenhouse gases added to the atmosphere have apparently been buffered so far by the working of the global system as a whole, but they will eventually alter global climate, causing warming at unprecedented rates.

It is estimated that the prediction of global warming of 3.5°C or - 2.0°C due to CO₂ doubling would lead to sea level rise of 80 cm. This prediction is based on global warming effects only and sea level trends over the few thousand years at that location should be added to the figures above.

Over the next century major physical factors affecting sea level due to postulated global increase of atmospheric temperature of 3.5°C are likely to be:

— Thermal expansion of ocean waters could expand the top 100 metre of tropical water by 10 cm and the next 900 metre by at least 20 cm, and eventually by 50 cm or more. Below that level cold deep water would continue to flow from polar regions, changes in the depth of the thermocline and hence of the vertical distribution of temperature could, however, produce larger changes than the simple expansion figures given above.

— Melting of smaller glaciers

and ice caps could produce a rise of around 20 cm of sea level. — Changes of melting and accumulating of the ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica will tend to counterbalance each other. Due to uncertainty of opposing trends, the effect on sea level may be negative.

— Changes of water storage on land in lakes, rivers, reservoirs and groundwater are very difficult to predict and while unlikely to exceed 10 cm per century will probably be a fraction of this value.

— A catastrophic collapse of the west Antarctic ice sheet is not imminent, but this is not supported by scientific evidence and better oceanographic knowledge is required before assessing whether a global temperature rise of 3.5°C could start such a collapse by the end of next century.

— Melting of smaller glaciers and ice caps could produce a rise of around 20 cm of sea level.

Sea level rise and the Mediterranean

The coastlines bordering the Mediterranean Sea are divided between more than 15 nations, and its coastal literature exists in at least a dozen languages. This linguistic situation has complicated the task of presenting an overview of the effects of sea level rise along the Mediterranean Sea, an almost landlocked sea comparable with the Gulf of Mexico, the China Sea, the North Sea and the Baltic.

However, if written information is dispersed, the mapping of coastal features has also been uneven, this could be due to the conflict that existed between

different states bordering its shores and also the interests of super-powers in the region.

The Mediterranean region has always had its good deal of problems, most man-made, but some could be classified as natural.

For the purpose of this review, predictions of likely rise in sea level in the Mediterranean over the next fifty years or so will be based on global values.

The following discussion will be based on the author's personal observations, opinion, perceptions and knowledge of the areas reviewed.

Two case studies will follow, the first will cover the Nile Delta, and the second will look at the problems associated with the Venice Lagoon and how estimated global sea level rise might confuse the picture further.

Effects of sea level rise on the Nile Delta

From a geomorphological point of view, deltas are some of the most rapidly changing areas in the world. The land areas are built-up by sediments both from the river and the sea to an elevation slightly above the high tide. This natural process, in case of the Nile Delta, has already been disrupted by two major human activities; the building of the Aswan Dam and the reclamation of land from the sea alongside the Eastern Mediterranean coast in the last forty years. Nevertheless, a rapid rise in the sea level will further upset the natural system. Large areas will be inundated, including a coastal strip with a width of one to 20 kms or more. Even larger areas will be subject to flood disasters.

The Nile Delta is home for 16 per cent of Egypt's population, about 15 million people, it is twice as heavily populated as Bangladesh.

Most of Egypt's fish catch come from the lagoons of the Nile

Delta. As for agriculture, the Nile Delta accounts for more than a quarter of the country's cultivable land. With the loss of hundreds of hectares of cultivable land due to desert incursion during the last two decades, more intensive cultivation is taking place in the Nile Delta.

The loss of good productive land to the sea will have an adverse effect on many of the nations of the area. Egypt is the major rice producer among the Arab countries and it exports rice and many other crops to Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Libya and others. So, the loss of land in the Nile Delta will reduce the nation's GNP and put millions of Egyptians out of work, adding to the 25 per cent unemployment in rural areas.

Tourism is the second most important industry in Egypt. Alexandria and Port Said have very important tourism activity as well as being the two major ports on the Mediterranean Sea.

Most of the Nile Delta is only 50 to 60 cm. above sea level. Alexandria and Port Said, in the Nile Delta and home to 16 per cent of Egypt's population, would be swamped by only 60 cm rise in sea level. The lagoons of the delta, which provide most of Egypt's supply of fish, would be ruined and one quarter of the country's cultivable land could become under the waves.

Effects of sea level rise on the Venice Lagoon

Throughout history attempts to protect Venice incursion of the sea have modified the environmental factors that influenced the evolution of the lagoon. These interventions have changed the interactions between the rivers and the sea and have led to modifications in and around the lagoon system. Causing relative rise in mean sea level of 10 to 15 cm. Once more, due to human

impact on the environment, Venice is under a new threat: sea level rise as a result of global warming.

For centuries there have been arguments regarding man's intervention in the Venice Lagoon. Venice depends on a balance between interacting factors, notably the inflow of fresh and salt waters, the budget of sedimentation, and the influence of ecology.

In the lagoon of Venice, frequency of flooding (acqua alta), has increased dangerously in the last few decades. This increase has several causes. Some are a result of atmospheric conditions, others are of mean sea level variations and tidal changes. With a predicted sea level rise of 50 to 60 cm during the next century, due to global warming, the frequency of flooding is likely to increase further.

Since the beginning or records in Venice (1871), the total mean sea level rise is estimated to be about 27 cm. Of the 27 cm, at least 14 cm, must be ascribed to man-induced sinking of land, 3 to 7 cm to geological subsidence, and only the last 6 to 10 cm are probably related to regional eustasy and to other natural phenomena.

In the last three decades, intervention to depollute the air and water of the lagoon, and help nature to take its action in rebuilding the lagoon is believed to bring improvements. Since pumping of ground water stopped, the lagoon has uplifted by almost 10 cm.

From the above evaluation of sea level rise of the Venice Lagoon, it seems that a simple assessment of the effects of predicted sea level rise due to global warming on Venice is not feasible. Will improved environmental management of the Venice Lagoon improve the situation and help to save it?



The Egyptian harbour of port Said is one of the Mediterranean cities to be affected by the rise of the sea water level

Urban survival game: A new American sport

By Louis Meisler
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Najj Al Montasser crouched low behind an iron girder, a pistol at his side, as he hid in a warehouse. He carefully stepped forward and aimed his "splattmaster" pistol at the camouflaged man hiding behind an overturned table a few feet ahead.

His opponent lunged forward firing two quick shots, striking the 30-year-old contractor in the leg.

Splat. El Montasser's out. In a city where more than 2,000 people were slain last year, Al Montasser will live to fight another day.

His shooting was part of a simulated war game that is growing in the United States as well as in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Organisers estimate that last year almost 100,000 Americans spent at least \$250 million hunting each other as part of what is often called the national survival game.

The game is played at 400 rural fields and several dozen urban centres across the United States.

"It's exciting, it's strategy it's fun, it's close to the real thing," said Al Montasser, who was playing the game for the first time. He wore a black sweatshirt and dark

pants — decorated with two fluorescent green splottches.

"You see so much nonsense in the streets, in the world. But this is fun," said Al Montasser. "You hit someone with this," he said pointing to his "splattmaster" pistol, "and he's back in the game in a few minutes."

The "splattmaster," like the semiautomatic paintball rifles also favoured by the game's devotees, is powered by a CO₂ cartridge and can accurately fire a dime-sized water-based paintball about 60 metres.

Some observers take the game less lightly. They say its meteoric rise in popularity since its inception in June 1981 reflects a dangerous and growing sense of alienation in society and an increase in the public's infatuation with the military.

"A certain form of combat, of aggression, has become the new badge of the American hero," said Henri Zukier, a professor of psychology at the graduate faculty of the New School for Social Research.

Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf "is a real live hero, Rambo is the fantasised image," he said. "With these games one can take part in the glory at considerably less risk, in a mediated way."

Fred Wright, a professor of psychology at New York's John Jay College of Criminal Justice

said the game helps vent the frustrations of many of its players.

"It's healthy in that no one is injured, but it is dangerously close to the real thing," he said. "And there is the danger that borderline people who are not well integrated into society may trip over the fine line between fantasy and hurting other people."

Jerry Braun, publisher of Paintball Sports and a member of the Master Blasters, a prize-winning Paintball team, dismissed the charges.

"Should we eliminate hide-and-seek because it's a hunt-and-chase game?" Braun asked. "It's primal. It seems universal."

Braun plans to host the 80,000-dollar "world cup" of Paintball June 28-30 in Newburgh, New York. Dozens of 15-man teams from across the United States, Canada and Britain are expected to compete for the prize money.

"It's one of the few ways adults can play," said Braun, a lawyer, who opened the survival New York playing field north of New York City in 1982. "This is one game where they can dress up in a costume, paint their faces and run around in the woods all day and get away with it."

In New York City, about a dozen people gathered late one Thursday night to play in the

warehouse where Al Montasser first spilled paint.

"I lead a stressful life," said Steve Rieber, an electrician who fights under the name Scorpion. "But I come here and fight and sweat and I feel better."

"For 40 minutes it's complete tension. You don't know what is going on if someone is sneaking up behind you or what. It's 40 minutes of adrenaline."

There are two types of team play. One is total elimination, in which each team tries to shoot all members of the opposing team. The other is capture the flag, which is usually played outdoors the idea is to capture the other team's flag and bring it to your base.

Rieber was wearing a padded camouflaged uniform and holding a paintball gun styled like an assault rifle. He wore goggles and a mask to protect his head from a direct hit.

Moments later about half a dozen camouflaged warriors headed to the main floor of the warehouse which was decorated with piles of tires, overturned tables and wooden barriers, all covered with splottches of paint from errant shots.

As a judge gave the signal, players crept forward hiding behind the barriers. In a few minutes of semiautomatic paintball fire, the game was over.


Admission at urban survival is \$20 and a tube of 10 balls of paint costs \$1.50. Peter Stirling, the co-owner of the Brooklyn field, said an average player spends between \$50 and 100 a day.

A good semiautomatic rifle costs \$200 to 300, but modifications can boost the bill considerably. Norberto Rodriguez's gun cost \$600 dollars, including such modifications as extra paint and CO₂ capacity.

Rodriguez, 21, said he doesn't care about the cost of the game. "I love the game, but my mama doesn't like the idea of me carrying a gun in New York City," Rodriguez said as he packed his black paintball rifle in a carrying case.


"You know, it's only a sport, but she just doesn't understand."

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York CLOSING (June 4, 1991)	Tokyo CLOSING (June 4, 1991)
Sterling Pound	1.6964	1.6977
Deutsche Mark	1.7465	1.7459
Swiss Franc	1.4930	1.4990
French Franc	5.9215	5.9175
Japanese Yen	139.20	138.60
European Currency Unit	1.1770	1.1783

120 Per 100
European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 4/6/1991

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.43	6.00	6.18	6.62
Sterling Pound	11.50	11.51	10.43	10.81
Deutsche Mark	8.37	8.37	9.00	9.00
Swiss Franc	7.93	7.93	7.93	7.61
French Franc	9.43	9.37	9.37	9.43
Japanese Yen	7.67	7.62	7.56	7.34
European Currency Unit	10.06	9.90	9.87	9.75

Precious Metals Date: 4/6/1991

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	362.15	6.70	Silver	4.16	.098

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 4/6/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.685	.685
Sterling Pound	1.1577	1.1635
Deutsche Mark	.3903	.3923
Swiss Franc	.4578	.4601
French Franc	.1152	.1158
Japanese Yen	.4903	.4928
Dutch Guilder	.3465	.3482
Swedish Krona	.1089	.1094
Italian Lira	.0527	.0530
Belgian Franc	.01897	.01906

Other Currencies Date: 4/6/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7850	1.8100
Lebanese Lira	.0740	.0760
Saudi Riyal	.1817	.1825
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1845	.1850
Egyptian Pound	.1900	.2050
Omani Riyal	1.7450	1.7650
UAE Dirham	.1845	.1850
Greek Drachma	.3450	.3650
Cypriot Pound	1.4150	1.4250

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	2/6/1991	Close	3/6/1991	Close
All-Share	112.89		113.15	
Banking Sector	110.45		110.30	
Insurance Sector	112.56		113.06	
Industry Sector	114.89		115.49	
Services Sector	126.46		128.56	

Canada reports steep GDP drop

OTTAWA (R) — Canada's economy suffered its steepest decline of the recession in the first quarter of 1991, shrinking at a pace equal to the worst of the 1981-82 recession, but economists say a recovery has started.

Gross domestic product (GDP) fell 1.5 per cent in the first quarter, the fourth consecutive quarterly decline, the government has reported.

The manufacturing sector was the hardest hit, falling about four per cent in dollar value, Statistics Canada, the government reporting agency, said.

"Most of the decline happened in the first month," Mr. Darryl Rhodes, an economist with Statistics Canada, said. In January the government introduced a seven per cent goods and services tax. "Most of the 1.5 per cent drop that happened in January was due to the effect of the goods and services tax," he said.

OECD chief sees moderate growth in industrial world

PARIS (R) — The industrial world is poised to snap out of the economic slowdown triggered by the Gulf crisis but recovery will not be brisk, the head of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has said.

Mr. Jean-Claude Paye, secretary-general of the Paris-based economic forum, said growth in the 24 rich countries that make up the OECD was likely to average 2.5 per cent in the second half of 1991 and about three per cent in 1992.

The agency's economists have forecast no growth at all in the first half of this year.

While there was broad agreement that the recovery would

take hold during the second half of the year, Mr. Paye said there were still question marks as to how strong it would be. But he ruled out a return to the heady growth rates of the 1980s.

"We don't expect a vigorous recovery, notably because the slowdown wasn't profound and didn't last very long," Mr. Paye told reporters.

Although inflation should decline next year, Mr. Paye was cautious about the prospects for lower interest rates, saying circumstances differed from one country to another.

European officials are waiting to see whether U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady renews his calls for Japan and Europe to cut rates to get the world eco-

nomy moving.

As well as providing momentum to the long-running Uruguay Round of world trade talks, Mr. Paye wants ministers to pay more attention than in the past to social issues, such as immigration and rising unemployment.

"It would be a shame if the OECD was characterised at the end of the century as an economic success and a social failure," Mr. Paye said. "I don't consider a 10 per cent unemployment rate to be a success."

He said no one had the magic cure for unemployment but the experience of countries with low jobless rates, such as Japan, pointed to a need to emphasise education, training and flexible labour markets.

IMF to lend Algeria \$405m

WASHINGTON (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Monday it agreed to lend Algeria about \$405 million and is ready to give it some \$285 million more to help the country reform its economy.

"Algeria has implemented a number of fundamental and far-reaching economic and financial reforms to shift from a centrally planned economic system to a system relying on market forces," the IMF said.

The IMF said that its \$405 million stand-by credit is designed to support the government's economic reform programme through the end of next March.

It said it was prepared to lend Algeria an additional \$285 million if the oil producer's trade position deteriorates due to a drop in oil or natural gas prices.

"(Algeria's) economic and financial programme for 1991 aims at accelerating market-related reforms in the Algerian

economy and laying the foundation for sustained, non-inflationary growth," the IMF said.

It said that the country intends to end government price controls on virtually all goods except basic food and energy products by the end of this year.

Algeria is also putting together a "social safety net programme" to protect the country's poorest groups from the impact of the economic reforms, the IMF said.

African countries sign common market treaty

ABUJA, Nigeria (R) — African heads of state meeting in Nigeria signed an economic treaty Monday, laying down a framework for a common market within the next 34 years.

The treaty establishing the African Economic Community was endorsed by more than 30 African heads of state and government at the start of a three-day summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Nigeria's proposed new capital Abuja.

An OAU document details six stages of implementation, culminating in the free movement of people, goods and capital and the application of the right of resi-

dence throughout the continent. Similar attempts at economic union, both at regional and continental level, have failed in the past largely because OAU members face difficulties in shifting Africa's trade away from its former colonial rulers.

Business analysts said they doubted economic integration would be any easier now given the continent's current economic crisis, marked by a high debt burden.

A similar document was adopted by the OAU in 1980 but the regional trade groups seen then as the basis for African economic union have hardly been functional, they said.

Qantas Airways to cut 3,651 workers

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Qantas Airways said Tuesday it plans to cut 3,651 workers as part of a plan to save 243 million dollars (\$185 million) a year.

A 200-page report, jointly prepared by government-owned Qantas and consultants Coopers and Lybrand of New York, has recommended 18 per cent of the jobs should go, leaving the work force at 17,138.

Included in the losses would be one-third — 200 employees — of the airline's management force.

Qantas chief executive John Ward said the proposals were crucial to the airline's future, allowing it to increase earnings by 150 million dollars (\$114 million) in the next financial year.

The government plans to sell 49 per cent of Qantas and all of Australian Airlines.

The airline expects to initially allow a short period for voluntary severance following union consultations and then begin dismiss-

sals in July. About 680 staff have already left under cutbacks introduced late last year.

"The report provides the basis for achieving the international competitiveness we seek, and the sort of management structure and atmosphere the Qantas of the future needs," Mr. Ward said.

The carrier expects to finish the year "a bit better than break even," despite earlier estimated operating losses of 350 million dollars (\$266 million) due to higher fuel prices and decreased passenger traffic, he said.

Mr. Ward said returning the airline to strong profitability was "an absolute necessity if we are going to achieve a successful transition to private ownership."

"There is no denying that, given the current depressed growth outlook, it (the airline) is overstaffed and, in many areas, its management has grown bureaucratic and bloated," he said.

Morocco revises oil, gas law

RABAT (R) — Morocco has revised its law on oil and gas prospecting, introducing the waivers and other incentives to make it more attractive to foreign oil companies.

Morocco has 30 far found very little oil or gas and imports over 90 per cent of its energy requirements.

Traces have been found in the past by overseas companies prospecting parts of the 350,000 square kilometre of sedimentary basins identified by geologists.

Under the new law, the state's share in future proceeds with foreign firms will be cut to 35 per cent from a previous minimum of 50 per cent.

For corporate tax purposes, 200 per cent of the cost of surveys and prospecting will be deductible, over three years for companies operating before the new law comes into force, and over 10 years for firms signing new accords.

In the event of an oil or gas discovery, concession fees are waived on the first four million tonnes produced, and no petroleum tax is payable in the first three years after the start of production.

A Soviet economic delegation visiting Washington last week told representatives of the International Monetary Fund that

OPEC ministers begin summer conference

VIENNA (R) — OPEC ministers started talks Tuesday on how much oil to pump for the rest of the year, but they to tackle seemed reluctant some of the biggest hurdles thrown up by the Gulf crisis.

Ministers were grouped into three camps as they entered OPEC's twice-yearly conference called to review output levels and prices, Indonesian Oil Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita said.

Speaking to reporters on his way to the opening session, Ginanjar said some countries wanted to increase the present 22.3 million barrel per day (b/d) production ceiling by 500,000 b/d for the third quarter.

Others wanted to keep the level unchanged, while the third camp sought a cut to help restore prices to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC's) target of \$21 a barrel.

Prices are now more than \$3 below the target.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, opposed a production cut for the third quarter.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said the kingdom supported OPEC's \$21 target price, but would not starve the world's oil markets to achieve the goal.

"We have always felt that we will support \$21 but we never said that we will force that on the market by a deliberate creation of shortage," Sheikh Nazer told reporters.

Saudi Arabia emerged from the chaos of the Gulf war as OPEC's powerhouse. Its vast re-

serves and huge capacity to pump crude oil permitted it to produce around eight million b/d, more than a third of OPEC's total output.

Iran, OPEC's second-biggest producer, refused to go along with a production boost that could undermine prices even more.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholmreza Aqazadeh, when asked if there should be an output rise in the third quarter said: "No."

"We cannot accept an increase in the ceiling," he added.

A Reuters survey put OPEC's total production at 22.04 million b/d in May, just below the upper level agreed, at an emergency OPEC session in March. The price for a basket of seven OPEC crudes averaged \$17.78 last month.

Discussion of the third quarter output ceiling was likely to dominate the meeting, eclipsing the looming problem of how to integrate Iraqi and Kuwaiti exports knocked out by the war.

Iraq is ready to leap back into the market and export crude as soon as the United Nations lifts the economic sanctions it imposed to punish Iraq for invading Kuwait last August.

But in Kuwait, hundreds of blazing oilwells have crippled production, and officials have said the emirate will not be able to resume substantial exports until next year.

Mr. Aqazadeh said Iran expected Iraq and Kuwait to resume oil exports in the first quarter of 1992, adding OPEC would have to address the issue later this

year.

He said the potential return of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil production was not a problem for the third quarter because they were still unable to export.

"But in the first quarter I think it is a very serious problem. We will talk in the fourth quarter about this matter," he noted.

Some ministers were willing to put off a decision on fourth quarter production, when OPEC forecasts demand will rise with the onset of the northern hemisphere's winter until the outlook for Iraqi and Kuwaiti crudes becomes clearer.

"We cannot make a decision for the (last) six months (of this year)," outgoing OPEC President Sadek Boussena of Algeria said. "A meeting in September will be necessary."

"There will almost certainly be another meeting," Nigerian Oil Minister Jibril Aminu said, adding he expected OPEC would decide to keep output steady for the time being.

Mr. Boussena told his colleagues that he was resigning as OPEC president, and conference sources said Venezuela energy and mines Minister Celestino Armas would take up the office.

Mr. Boussena had said at OPEC's March meeting in Geneva that he might not seek reelection for a post he held since last year.

After the OPEC meeting, Mr. Boussena will return home to take part in parliamentary elections on June 27.

Bush clears trade hurdle with Moscow

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President George Bush has made a step towards granting farm credits and trade benefits to the Soviet Union but is being cautious on sending cash to help bail out the teetering Soviet economy.

Mr. Bush Monday waived the so-called Jackson-Vanik law that requires countries to allow free emigration in order to receive favourable trade treatment from the United States.

He is expected in coming days to grant \$1.5 billion in farm credits to the Soviet Union for buying U.S. food. Extending most-favoured-nation trade status (MFN) for the first time to the Soviet Union should not be far behind.

While those concessions will be welcomed in Moscow, they represent only a fraction of the assistance Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev wants from the West to rebuild the Soviet economy in exchange for radical, market-oriented economic reform.

A Soviet economic delegation visiting Washington last week told representatives of the International Monetary Fund that

Moscow would need \$30 billion to \$50 billion a year from the West for five years — up to \$250 billion — if Mr. Gorbachev's economic reform programme was to succeed.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters Monday that no such figure was given to time by the Soviets. He said given U.S. budgetary constraints, it would be difficult to come up with large sums for the Soviet Union.

Asked how the United States could justify giving farm credits to the Soviet Union when it still spends lavishly on its military, Mr. Fitzwater said:

"We continue to put pressure on them to reduce their military spending, reduce their support for Cuba and other satellite countries and to use that money for their internal needs."

Vice-President Dan Quayle told reporters the West should provide incentives for reform but that Western aid alone could not solve Moscow's problems.

"There is no amount of aid that



George Bush

can be pumped into the Soviet Union that is going to help the Soviet Union until they undertake some fundamental reforms," he said.

Bush's extension of the Jackson-Vanik waiver was one of two conditions for granting most-favoured-nation trade status to the Soviet Union. The other is a comprehensive U.S.-Soviet trade agreement.

Such an agreement was signed at Bush's summit with Gorbachev in Washington a year ago, but the administration delayed submitting the pact to Congress while awaiting Soviet parliamentary action on a law liberalising Soviet emigration policies.

Court upholds imposition of income tax in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — An Islamic court in Pakistan has ruled that the government has the power to impose income tax even though it is not in the Koran.

The court dismissed Monday a legal challenge seeking to restrict the government to levying the Islamic taxes of Zakat and Ushr, the official APP news agency said.

Banks deduct a 2.5 per cent Zakat tax annually from savings accounts, while a portion of agricultural produce is collected by the government from farmers as Ushr.

Islamic taxes were imposed on the property of Muslims while income tax was also paid by non-Muslims and foreigners living in Pakistan, the court ruling said.

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Lithuanians vow to defend parliament against Soviet attack

MOSCOW (AP) — Lithuanian nationalists vowed Tuesday to hold a weeklong vigil around their fortified parliament building to prevent an attack by Soviet forces. Moscow's troops had staged a brief show of force in the secessionist republic overnight.

In Moscow, officials accused Lithuanian leaders of manufacturing a dispute in order to sabotage President Mikhail Gorbachev's relations with the West. About 500 Lithuanians massed early Tuesday in front of the parliament in the capital of Vilnius, said Algimantas Cekulis, spokesman for the Sajudis nationalist movement.

"People of Lithuania: Lithuania is facing danger again," said a Sajudis appeal broadcast several times on local radio and television.

"The Soviet army is once again encroaching on Lithuania's heart, its Supreme Council (parliament). Assessing the situation, Sajudis invites the people of Lithuania to maintain a vigil at the Supreme Council."

Thousands of Lithuanians gathered in the square in front of the parliament buildings in response to a television appeal Monday night from Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis to show "unity... and not to give way to provocation."

Most dispersed by 2 a.m. (0000GMT) after 50-100 armed Soviet troops dismantled 10-15 checkpoints set up hours after the Soviet prosecutor blamed

nationalists for most of the 14 deaths in January's military crackdown in the republic.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS), quoting "unofficial sources," said the troops were training to search for weapons who left their units with weapons. A spokesman for Gorbachev said the incident was contrived by Landsbergis to embarrass the Soviet president on the eve of his trip to Oslo, Norway, to deliver his Nobel Peace Prize lecture Wednesday.

"Every time U.S.-Soviet relations, or relations with the West, start looking better, Landsbergis does something like this," Vitaly Ignatenko told the Associated Press in Oslo.

The checkpoints went up starting about 9:30 p.m. (1930 GMT) Monday, on city bridges, the Vilnius Airport, the Central Railway Station and three entrances to parliament, said parliament spokeswoman Rita Dapkus.

Soldiers checked identity papers and briefly detained two people working for the pro-independence civilian Defence Force, she said. Military patrols also were spotted near the republic's Interior Ministry and police stations, she said.

The began pulling back about 1 a.m. Tuesday (2300 GMT Monday) Ms. Dapkus said.

Landsbergis told the Lithuanian parliament Tuesday his government kept in touch throughout the night with unnamed foreign governments and officials in

Estonia and Latvia.

The independent Baltfax News Agency quoted him as saying unsuccessful attempts were made to contact Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov and senior officials in the Baltic military district. "There are no guarantees that the military will not resort to similar actions today or tomorrow," Baltfax quoted Landsbergis as saying.

Meanwhile, President Mikhail Gorbachev and the leaders of nine republics agreed Monday to change the country's name to the Union of Soviet Sovereign Republics but remain committed to socialist ideals, TASS reported.

The meeting was held at the government dacha, or country house, in the Moscow suburb of Novo-Ogaryovo that has been the site of previous sessions to work out Gorbachev's proposed union treaty, the TASS said.

On May 25, the day after the previous session, Russian Federation leader Boris Yeltsin disclosed the leaders' nearly complete agreement on changing the name of the country from the "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics" to the "Union of Soviet Sovereign Republics."

Presidential aide Georgy Shakhnazarov told TASS that the need to keep the word "Socialist" in the country's name was expressed at Monday's meeting, but that argument was countered by the view that "no countries are left in the world with ideological

symbols in their names."

The change of the name does not mean the rejection of Socialist ideals, Shakhnazarov was quoted as saying.

The participants, which included leaders of the smaller political subdivisions called the autonomous republics, worked on the union treaty's preamble and its first section, TASS said.

That section dealt with human rights, "government by the people," free development of all forms of ownership, market relations and other topics, TASS said.

Gorbachev's union treaty is designed to preserve the country as a federation.

In the first dacha meeting, on April 23, Gorbachev signed an accord with the leaders of nine of the 15 republics, including Yeltsin, to sign the union treaty. In turn, Gorbachev would turn over most of the nation's industrial and natural resources.

Besides Russia, the republics are the Ukraine, Byelorussia, Azerbaijan, Tadzhikistan, Turkmenia, Uzbekistan, Kirghizia and Kazakhstan.

The republics that have said they will not sign the union treaty are Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Moldavia, Armenia and Georgia. TASS did not say when the next session would be held, although Gorbachev has said that his target is to present the treaty to the republics' parliaments for approval this month.

S. Korea tells protesters to obey law or face jail

SEOUL (R) — South Korean officials, faced with growing public outrage over a student assault on the prime minister, warned dissidents Tuesday that unlawful protests would bring harsh criminal prosecution.

"The government makes it clear that all of its law enforcement powers will be mobilized to resolutely deal with all violent and other unlawful acts on or off campus," Education Minister Yoon Hyung-Sup said in a statement.

"We can no longer leniently deal with those students who are bent on turning sacred institutions of higher learning into hotbeds of ideological and political strife simply because they are students," he said.

Prosecutor-General Jeong Ku-Yeong, meanwhile, ordered an investigation into Monday night's manhandling of newly appointed Prime Minister Chung Won-Shik at Seoul's Hankook University of Foreign Studies.

Arrest orders were issued for 16 students identified from seized television news videotapes. Those sought included Hankook Student Council Chairman Chong Won-Taek who has apparently gone underground.

More than 360 students were apparently randomly picked up and detained after the assault but all were released by Tuesday evening.

Premier Chung, 62, was kicked, punched, pelted with flour and eggs, and dragged through the campus for 30 minutes while about 300 students chanted: "murderer, murderer."

The prime minister, a conservative educator appointed by President Roh Tae-Woo only on May 24 and not yet formally installed in office, had arrived at the university to deliver a lecture on "guidance for student life."

Chung's aides told reporters Tuesday the prime minister was bruised on his face, neck and back. He briefly visited his office in the morning and then returned home.

Newspapers and state radio and television said they had received hundreds of calls from citizens expressing anger and outrage at the assault on the prime minister who functions as the head of governmental administration.

In a meeting Tuesday with foreign correspondents, Information Minister Choi Chang-Yoon asserted that a "national consensus" had formed against student radicals because of assault which he said had shamed South Korea before the world.

"I couldn't sleep last night because of the embarrassment to my country," Choi said.

The assault has been nearly universally condemned in South Korea. The country's main opposition leader, Kim Dae-Jung, said the harrowing pictures of the assault filled him with sorrow.

Peking stays quiet on crackdown anniversary

PEKING (AP) — With a few subtle, anonymous gestures Tuesday, Chinese remembered the army killings of pro-democracy protesters two years ago.

A few dozen white paper flowers were scattered on a sidewalk in the early morning, and quickly snatched up by passersby who could not mistake the significance. White is the colour of mourning in China.

Empty beer bottles were smashed from university dormitories, also an unmistakable gesture. The word for "little bottle," Xiao Ping, sounds like the name of senior Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, who is believed to have ordered the army to open fire on student-led demonstrators in Peking streets on June 3-4, 1989.

The demonstrators, sometimes numbering more than a million, sometimes as few as several thousand, had occupied Peking's central Tiananmen Square for several weeks before the army moved in.

Meanwhile the U.S. State Department said Monday China could move to heal remaining wounds from its crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators by freeing people still in prison.

"We deeply deplored the brutal suppression of peaceful demonstrators around Tiananmen Square in June 1989," said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler.

"One significant step China could take to heal the wounds of Tiananmen would be to release all those imprisoned after the pro-democracy movement in 1989 for the peaceful expression of their political views," she said.

Jiang, 77, whose death sentence imposed in 1981 had been commuted to life imprisonment, died in her residence.

Jiang was arrested shortly after Mao's death in September, 1976. Denounced as the "gang of four" she and three radical allies were put on trial in 1980 after senior leader Deng Xiaoping, a bitter enemy of Jiang, had emerged from political exile and cemented his hold on power.

Jiang, a former Shanghai ac-

ress, was sentenced to death in January, 1981, accused of persecuting thousands to death during China's radical Cultural Revolution.

Her death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment in January, 1983, but she had been out of custody receiving medical treatment since May 4, 1984, the agency said.

"Jiang Qing, principal criminal of the case of Lin Biao-Jiang Qing counter-revolutionary clique, committed suicide and died in her residence in Peking in the early hours of May 14, 1991, when she remained out of custody and obtained medical treatment," the agency said.

China confirms Mao's widow committed suicide

PEKING (R) — Jiang Qing, widow of China's late Chairman Mao Tse-tung, committed suicide on May 14, The New China News Agency said Tuesday.

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Families of shot IRA gunmen demand inquiry

BELFAST (R) — The families of three top IRA gunmen shot dead by British undercover commandos in an ambush demanded a full public inquiry Tuesday and raved allegations of an official "shoot-to-kill" policy.

Public inquiry Tuesday and raved in a fusillade of 200 shots that raked their stolen car Monday, were about to attack a group of Protestant labourers on their way to work in the sleepy little County Tyrone village of Coagh.

Francis McNally, whose brother was one of those killed, said: "I have no complaints if they were confronted and it was a fair fight."

"These so-called security forces are supposed to be the law and order, but then after this you have to ask — who are the terrorists when they set up people to be murdered?"

Calling for a public inquiry, he said: "Obviously something sinister happened and there is no doubt to me there is a shoot-to-kill policy."

Protestant unionists welcomed the killings by Special Air Services (SAS) commandos who trapped the leading IRA activists in an elaborate stakeout. Two rifles were found beside the car. But moderate nationalist Denis Haughey of the Social democratic

and Labour Party asked: "I would wish to know whether there was any alternative to the use of such extreme lethal force and to be reassured that any possible alternatives were fully considered."

Britain denies the allegations which have surfaced in the past. Nineteen guerrillas have been killed by undercover forces in the last four years.

Britain's Northern Ireland Minister Peter Brooke, battling to get Protestants and Catholics around a negotiating table, is trying to return Northern Ireland to self-government after 17 years of direct rule from London.

On Monday he pledged that a recent upsurge in IRA bombing attacks would not disrupt the landmark talks on the future of the battle-scarred province.

"I think one of the profoundly encouraging things has been the universal view that if the intention of the terrorists was to blow us off course in this process, they have been singularly unsuccessful."

Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, has been excluded from the talks because it refuses to renounce violence and security chiefs fear the IRA is trying to undermine the negotiations by escalating gun and bomb attacks.

COLUMN

Bush resumed jogging

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush revealed that he has already resumed jogging after being stricken by a thyroid-triggered heart irregularity a month ago. Bush told reporters at a White House reception that he jogged for half-a-mile (0.8 kilometres) around his vacation home during his stay in Kennebunkport, Maine, last week over the Memorial Day weekend.

Bush said he is feeling no after-effects from his bout with the thyroid ailment and doctors are reducing the medication he now takes daily. He said he jogged for a half-mile and walked for two miles (3.2 kilometres) around his oceanfront home during his May 24-29 stay. Bush also played 63 holes of golf during his holiday.

Comedian goes home after heart surgery

LOS ANGELES (ap) — Comedian-actor Richard Pryor was released from UCLA Medical Centre less than a week after triple heart bypass surgery, his spokesman said. "He was released in good condition and he is on the road to recovery," said John Sepler, a publicist for the 50-year-old Pryor. Surgeons performed the bypass Wednesday after Pryor complained of chest pains.

Pryor was hospitalised with a heart attack 14 months ago in Australia. He nearly died in 1980 when he was severely burned while freebasing cocaine at his San Fernando Valley home. A self-admitted "junkie" at the time, the entertainer spent months recuperating from burns and drug dependency. Pryor recently finished the film Another You, co-starring his friend Gene Wilder.

14-year-old U.S. AIDS victim plans wedding

MIAMI, Florida (R) — A 14-year-old boy, one of three Florida brothers who were hounded out of their home town when they became infected with the AIDS virus, is planning to get married. Ricky Ray and his two younger brothers are believed to have contracted the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) virus through contaminated blood while being treated for haemophilia. The family became the target of a hate campaign and fled the town of Arcadia in 1987 after their home was destroyed in an arson attack. "People don't realise... with this disease, you mature. You learn things you are not supposed to learn," Ray told television reporters Sunday as he embraced his 16-year-old fiancée, whom he plans to marry on Dec. 13. Television reports identified his fiancée only as Wenonah and said the couple met at school about four years ago. Ray, who developed full-blown AIDS a few months ago, said his parents had consented to the wedding and he wanted to make the most of what ever year he had left.

U.S. singer wins Mozart competition

TORONTO (AP) — For gloriously singing the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, a young California baritone has won the Glory of Mozart International Vocal Competition. Earle Patricio, 25, won 20,000 Canadian dollars for his robust and charming interpretations of arias by the composer, besting nearly three dozen other singers competing for the prize. He also won six singing engagements in Canada and a trip for two to Vienna. In the finals at Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall, which came after three elimination rounds, the young singer exuberantly performed arias from Cost Fan Tutte and Grabmusik. Coloratura soprano Ana-Felicia Filip of Romania won the runner-up prize of 10,000 dollars. Soprano Kathleen Brett of British Columbia won the third prize of 5,000 dollars, an additional 10,000 dollars for being the best Canadian singer. Fourth place and 2,500 dollars went to Quebec bass Desmond Byrne while the other two finalists — U.S. tenor Tom Allen and New Brunswick soprano Wendy Nielsen — each won 1,000 dollars. The competition is one of a series of three musical contests comprising the Mozart Festival celebrating the 200th anniversary of the composer's death. A chamber music competition will be held in St. John's, Newfoundland, in mid-June and a piano competition in Joliette, Quebec, in early July. Total prize money is 124,500 dollars, making the competition one of the most lucrative in the world.

Last U.S. jets leave; Manila sees 7-year bases accord

MANILA (R) — The United States Tuesday pulled out its last fighter planes from the Philippines.

President Corazon Aquino's government still expressed optimism that both countries were nearing agreement on a new military bases treaty.

The three F-4 fighter-bombers roared off the runway at Clark Air Base, 80 kilometres north of Manila, completing withdrawal of two squadrons of the jets announced last November during talks on the fate of Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base.

The departure of the F-4s took place 24 days after the guided-

missile cruiser Sterett, the only American warship based in the Philippines, steamed out of Subic as part of global U.S. military spending cuts.

In Manila, Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said both countries had narrowed differences over issues blocking agreement on a new bases treaty.

"We note that the United States is now completing the seven years as a basic period of duration, but is asking for more time to withdraw," Manglapus, the head of the Philippine panel in the talks, told reporters.

He declined to say how much

time it wants, adding: "They have said three (years), they have said two, they have said one."

Washington had originally wanted a 10-to-12 year treaty.

Both countries are close to agreement on compensation the United States will pay for the facilities, the largest American bases in Asia.

"We are arriving at figures that may be acceptable to both sides," Manglapus said. The final figure might exceed the \$825 million in compensation Manila was asking for, he added.

The current U.S. lease on the bases expires in September.

Albanian government quits under all-parts deal

VIENNA (R) — Albania's Communist government resigned Tuesday amid a crippling general strike to make way for an interim unity cabinet that will take the impoverished state to fresh general elections in mid-1992.

With the general strike by 350,000 workers in its 20th day, Prime Minister Fatos Nano told an overnight session of parliament he was stepping down after only one month in office.

His departure formed part of a six-point deal between the Communist Party of Labour (PLA), four opposition parties and independent trade unions to try to restore social and political peace to the small Balkan state, Europe's poorest.

It ended 47 years of uninterrupted single-party Communist rule in Albania, slowly emerging from stifling Stalinist suppression and self-imposed international isolation.

"This is a true victory for our party, for all the democratic forces and for the Albanian people," Sali Berisha, leader of the main opposition Democratic Party, told Reuters from the capital Tirana.

Unrest hits Bosnia ahead of Yugoslav leaders' talks

BELGRADE (R) — Labour unrest spread throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina Tuesday ahead of talks to be held by national leaders in the central republic on the destiny of the crumbling Yugoslav Federation.

Union leaders said that up to 300,000 workers joined a strike which began Monday and was led by workers in the metallurgy, building, transport and wood processing sectors.

The strike was sparked by low pay, falling living standards and growing job losses — symptoms of an economic crisis that the federal government has been unable to solve as republics clash over future power-sharing arrangements.

The unrest heightened tension in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where the presidents of Yugoslavia's six republics will meet in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo Thursday.

The republic's mixed population of Serbs, Croats and Muslims are being turned against each other because of a power struggle between the two largest republics, Serbia and Croatia.

Yugoslavia, a federation of 23.5 million people, is close to civil war because its leaders disagree over how much autonomy the republics should have.

Central authority has steadily collapsed since the death in 1980 of Communist ruler Josip Broz Tito, who had led the country since World War II.

Croatia and its northern neighbour Slovenia say they will secede this month unless Yugoslav leaders agree to have a loose confederation of sovereign states and reject Serbia's proposal for a country ruled from the centre.

Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Macedonian republic launched a new joint initiative Monday, proposing an alliance of sovereign republics.

The alliance would have a common foreign policy, economic market and army, but the republics would also have their own diplomatic missions and armies. They suggested the alliance treaty should be valid for five to 10 years.

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Prince William recovering after skull fracture surgery

LONDON (R) — Prince William, grandson of Britain's Queen Elizabeth and future heir to the throne, was recovering from surgery for a fractured skull Tuesday after he was struck on the head with a golf club.

The eight-year-old prince, second in line to the throne after his father Prince Charles, had the operation after doctors discovered a bone in his forehead had been damaged when he was accidentally hit by a school friend Monday.

"The prince had an operation to correct a depressed fracture of the forehead," a Buckingham Palace spokesman said late Monday. "It was successful and no permanent damage is expected."

Prince William was taking part in a golf practice session at the exclusive Ludgrove Boarding School in Wokingham, west of London, when a yardward swing by a classmate caught him on the forehead leaving him with a bad cut.

Doctors at a local hospital, fearing the injury could be more serious, had the prince transferred to a specialist children's hospital in London where tests revealed a dent in the bone just above his left eye.

Hospital sources said the 70-minute operation under a general anaesthetic was a preventative measure to ensure any tiny splinters of bone were removed.

His anxious mother, Princess Diana, kept an overnight vigil at the prince's bedside in London's Great Ormond Street Hospital.

The royal couple were alerted by school officials and joined their son soon after the accident. Prince Charles drove 160 kilometres from the couple's country home in Gloucestershire, west England, to his son's bedside.

Pope enters abortion debate in Poland

RADOM, Poland (AP) — Pope John Paul II Tuesday told Poles, who overwhelmingly oppose a proposal to limit Communist-given rights to abortion, that their parliament cannot legalise abortion.

Pope John Paul a day before had pleaded with Poles to see "newly conceived" children as more than encumbrances. Tuesday, he entered the political debate during an address to an estimated 200,000 people, who gathered before a soaring wooden altar on a military air field.

"What human institution, what parliament, has the right to legalise the killing of an innocent and defenseless human being?" the pontiff asked in soft, measured tones.

"What parliament has the right to say, 'you are free to kill,' or even, 'killing is in order,' where the biggest efforts should be made to protect and help life in the first place?"

The Pope's golden robes billowed in the wind as he spoke against a backdrop of distant woodlands. At the end of the service, he said he hoped his words were not just "thrown to the winds."

The crowd, dotted with anti-abortion banners, listened silently and there was polite applause. Some said later they backed the Pope's stand, but others thought the sermon was too much.

"I don't like the subject any more and I had hoped that he wouldn't speak about it," said Bozena Rustrzewska, a young mother from Radom. "It has been said so many times that I think it's enough."

Poland has been embroiled in an emotional right-to-life battle since last year and abortion foes hope the pontiff's visit will provide the final impetus to stop an estimated 600,000 abortions in the country yearly.

Poland's present law, enacted in 1956 by the then-Communist rulers, allows legal abortions almost without limits.

Japanese rescuers retreat from erupting volcano

SHIMABARA, Japan (AP) — Japanese rescue troops retreated from blasts of an erupting volcano in southern Japan Tuesday as they searched for bodies and sought dozens of missing people. At least 14 people were believed dead.

At least 31 people were missing after Mount Unzen sent a torrent of volcanic debris searing down a valley at up to 200 kilometres an hour Monday afternoon, police said.

Mount Unzen, the site of Japan's worst volcanic disaster 200 years ago in which 15,000 people died, has been spewing what scientists call a pyroclastic flow, a fast-moving, destructive torrent.

Japan's ground self-defence forces, or army, sent armoured transport vehicles into the debris-strewn mountainside Tuesday in an attempt to rescue victims and recover bodies. But the troops, clad in firefighting gear, retreated after another eruption, news reports said.

Military spokesman Nobuyuki Kamiguchi said army helicopters had spotted at least 12 bodies after Monday's eruption.

Television reports showed rescuers carrying a body on a stretcher. Kamiguchi said he could not confirm how many had been retrieved before the troops withdrew.

The fiery volcanic flow set dozens of homes ablaze, and authorities evacuated about 5,000 people. Police said 20 injured people, 15 of them seriously burned, were brought to seven

local hospitals.

Yasuo Ohmachi, 37, a firefighter, and Takahiro Higuchi, 26, a policeman, both died Tuesday in the hospital, police said.

White clouds boiled up hundreds of metres above the mountain, and television reports from the scene showed parts of the mountain still afire. Thick volcanic ash spattered windshields miles away.

People with burns all over their bodies, their clothes in shreds, and crying for water were brought into local hospitals, news reports said.

An official at Shimabara City Hall, said the city had turned grey with volcanic ash, but was in no immediate danger.

"We are about 8 kilometres away from the volcano. I don't know how far the lava is going to run, but I don't think it will reach the city," he said on condition of anonymity. "Police will not confirm any of these death reports until rescuers reach the sites and verify them," he said.

Three foreign researchers — a French couple and an American — and 16 journalists were among the missing. Kyodo News Service identified the French volcanologist as Maurice Kraft. The woman was later identified by an acquaintance as Katia Kraft, also a volcanologist.

News reports said the American couple was Harry Glickman, a volcano expert who worked for the U.S. Geological Survey until 1989, when he moved to Tokyo to do research at Tokyo Metropolitan University.

News reports said earlier that a policeman died Monday after his patrol car was caught in lava as he drove through the southwestern Japan community warning residents to leave.

Mount Unzen, located in Nagasaki prefecture 980 kilometres southwest of Tokyo, erupted last Nov. 17 for the first time in 198 years, then again on Feb. 12 and May 24. But Monday's eruption was the most violent.

The volcano, one of many that form the Japanese archipelago